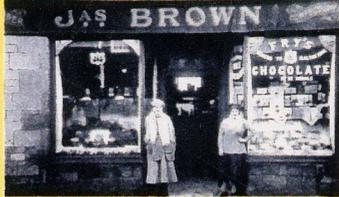


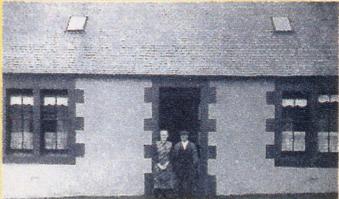


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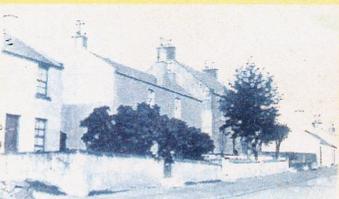


BY

JAMES TAYLOR



A HISTORY
OF THE VILLAGE OF MUIRKIRK
COMPILED FROM THE FILES OF THE
"MUIRKIRK ADVERTISER"
1907—1974



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Cumnock & Doon Valley Minerals Trust
for the grant
which made the publishing of this book possible

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The Muirkirk Advertiser

Circulated in Muirkirk, Glenbuck, Torhill, and Bankhead.

No. 1.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1907.

GRATIS.

FOREWORD

On 19th September, 1907, the first issue of "The Muirkirk Advertiser" made its appearance in the village. It was the brainchild of the late William Shaw Smith, who came to Muirkirk from Girvan in the latter part of the 19th century to set up a printing business in the village. Previously he had been in partnership with the late Thomas Gourlay in Girvan. From his premises in Main Street, W. S. Smith had produced several Christmas Advertisers, but he evidently thought that the time was ripe for a weekly edition to be printed in Muirkirk, as indeed it was. It was produced primarily as a four-page advertising sheet, but perhaps Mr Smith's own editorial in No. 1 Issue speaks for itself:—

"In issuing a sheet of any kind—be it daily, weekly, or monthly—it is customary to make some apology for its appearance. In this case no apology is offered. It is born for the purpose of mutual benefit: to reader, customer, and advertiser."

"Our village is peculiarly situated—between the de'l and the deep sea as it were—on the ridge between Lanarkshire and Ayrshire, and, although there may be periodicals that cater for the news of the district, it will be at once admitted that the advertising columns of these periodicals are not taken advantage of as they might be by the inhabitants of this district."

"The Muirkirk Advertiser," as the name suggests, is primarily an advertising medium, and makes no pretence at being a newspaper. At the same time, any news of local interest will, if possible, be chronicled; a place will also be found for other matter of an interesting kind, and the whole will be made as readable as possible. It will be considered an obligation if, when presentations take place, or meetings are held, the secretary or some other person present will either write a few lines or call at the Office and give a few particulars for publication. Short, interesting articles will also be welcomed."

"The advertising columns will be open to all at a very moderate rate, and advantage should be taken of the opportunity afforded to advertise meetings of all kinds, entertainment, articles wanted and for sale, houses for sale, wanted, and to let; as well as business notices of every description. The guarantee that a copy of the paper is put weekly into every home in Muirkirk, Glenbuck, Torhill and Bankhead, adds greatly to the value of the advertisement."

"The future of the 'Advertiser' is left with every confidence in the hands of the public."

There can be no doubt of the role that "The Advertiser" played in the life of the village, and it certainly exceeded the expectations of its founder. In its sixty-seven years of existence, in which time it only had three Editors—the late William Shaw Smith, the late John Samson, and finally, James Taylor—it became an institution in itself. During those years it chronicled most of the events of life in Muirkirk, and from its files I now attempt to paint a history of the village and surrounding district from the year 1907 until 1974.

No doubt there will be some omissions and some lapses of information, and some "jumping" from one story to another, but on the whole it will be a history of the people, of the place, of the tragedies, of the pleasures, and of the achievements of life in a close-knit mining community during the first half of the 20th Century.

The task of compiling this history has taken me several years, it being mainly a hobby, rather than a chore, but it has been nevertheless a fulfilling and enlightening experience, and if the reader of this book finds it enjoyable and interesting, then I will have been amply rewarded for my labours.

JAMES TAYLOR

CHAPTER ONE

(1907—08)

It was at once evident from reading the early copies of "The Muirkirk Advertiser" that Muirkirk itself was no ordinary village, that it possessed a way of life and had a friendliness about it which was absent in other places of like size and circumstances. Muirkirk was a thriving village in 1907, as a perusal of the advertisements quickly bear out. Among the early advertisers were:—

ROBERT JACK'S New Drapery Warehouse at Blackwood's Buildings

JAMES COOK, Family Grocer and Wine Merchant

HOGG the Baker, Main Street.

W. S. BLACKWOOD, Stationer, Newsagent, Tobacconist, Post Office.

JOHN ARMSTRONG, Painter and Paperhanger..

JAMES MURDOCH, Bootmaker.

J. JOHNSTONE, Photographer, Studio, Furnace Road

PETER FETTES, Ladies' High Class Tailoring.

J. GREENWOOD, Cycles, Etc.

R. W. HARKNESS, Black Bottle Tavern.

HAMILTON'S, Groceries and Provisions, Glenbuck Store.

PETERS, Watchmaker.

LAW'S, Millinery, Victoria House.

WILLIAM WILSON, Tobacconist and Fancy Goods.

MITCHELL'S, Cobbling.

JOHN ALLAN, Practical Builder, Holmhead.

JOHN KERR, Grocer (Opposite Main Street School).

J. H. MITCHELL, Ironmonger.

PEARSON'S, Drapers, Main Street/Glasgow Road.

N. DA PRATO, Fried Fish and Potatoes, Glasgow Road and Main Street.

JOHN TAYLOR, Hairdresser.

Amongst the local organisations at that time were:

Muirkirk School Board.
Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201.
Muirkirk Ornithological Society.
Lapraik Burns Club.
Muirkirk Literary Association
Muirkirk Amateur Photographic Association.
Muirkirk Parish Council.
Muirkirk Ramblers' Club
Muirkirk Parish Brass Band
Independent Labour Party—Muirkirk Branch.
Muirkirk Ambulance Corps.
Ladies' Ambulance Class.
Muirkirk Flower Show.
Muirkirk Amateur Minstrels.
Women's Unionist Assoc.—Muirkirk Branch.
Muirkirk Merchants' Association.
Muirkirk Horticultural Society.
Southside Musical Association.
Parish Church Juvenile Choir.
Ironworks Institute.

Sports and leisure activities played a major part in the life of the community at that time, and amongst the organisations contributing in this field were:

Muirkirk Angling Association.
Toll Scouts A.C.
Glenbuck Angling Association.
Muirkirk Bowling Club.
Muirkirk United F.C.
Muirkirk Cycling and Sports Committee
Muirkirk Cairntable Homing Club.
Muirkirk Quoiting Club.
Wellwood Carpet Bowling Club.
Muirkirk Athletic F. C.
Counter Loupers F.C.
Muirkirk Curling Club
Glenbuck Cherrypickers F.C.
Muirkirk Ancients
Cairntable Homing Club.

The spiritual Needs of the village were well catered for, as the following list shows:

Muirkirk Parish Church (Minister—Rev. R. Montgomery, B.D.).

Gospel Hall, Glasgow Road

Muirkirk E.U. Congregational Church, Glasgow Road (Minister—Rev. Thomas Halliday, to be succeeded on 28th July, 1908, by Rev. James Russell).

Chalmers U.F. Church, Glasgow Road (Minister—Rev. James Greenshields, B.D.).

Main Street U.F. Church (Minister—Rev. John Dundas).

Kames Mission Church (Minister—Rev. Mr Waugh, succeeded by Rev. A. C. McKenzie in September, 1907).

St. Thomas' R. C. Church (Father Leo Puissant). This Church was opened in 1906.

The Salvation Army, Temperance Hall, Main Street

And then there were the various Temperance bodies, which included:

Muirkirk Branch, British Women's Temperance Association.
Independent Order of Rechabites.
Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds
Glenbuck Yearly Friendly Society.
International Order of Good Templars.
Covenanters' Lodge of Good Templars.
Juvenile Rechabites.
Band of Hope.

SCHOOL ROLL (1908)

Furnace Road	494
Main Street	348
Glenbuck	181
Wellwood	36
St. Thomas'	64

VOTER'S ROLL (1907-08)

Village Ward	466
Ironworks Ward	285
Landward Ward	83
Glenbuck Ward	125

LOCAL STATISTICS

	1905	1906	1907
Births	195	189	144
Marriages	43	35	34
Deaths	77	54	60

The birth rate in 1907 was the Lowest recorded since 1872

The population of Muirkirk in 1901 was 5,670.

MUIRKIRK GAS WORKS

The village had its own coal gas producing plant under the name of Muirkirk Gas-Light Company, and quite a successful combination it appeared to be, making a profit of £170 17s 9d in 1908. It boasted that Muirkirk gas was the cheapest in Ayrshire. It was situated in Furnace Road (opposite the Day Centre).

SCHOLASTIC

In September, 1907, Miss Sunderland was transferred from Wellwood School to Furnace Road School.

At the same time Mr John Rodger, Headmaster of Glenbuck Public School, had the Degree of F.E.I.S. conferred on him at Edinburgh University.

JAS. MURDOCH,

BOOTMAKER, MAIN STREET,

WOULD draw special attention to a few of the Specialties he has in Stock, suitable for Season's Wear, viz.—

Men's Strong Watertight Boots, fitted to stand hard wear, 9s 6d per pair.

Men's Fine Boots, in Box Calf, at 8s 9d, 11s, 12s 6d, 15s 6d up. Smart Appearance and Reliable Wear.

Ladies' Boots and Shoes, in Glace Kid, from 6s 6d upward.

Boys' and Girls' School Boots, tuckets or sparables, strong and durable, price moderate.

Slippers, Ladies' and Gent's, in great variety.

Bespoke Trade.—Every Description of Boots and Shoes Made to Order.

Repairs have immediate attention, and are done in a thoroughly workmanlike manner.

NOTE ADDRESS—

PEOPLE'S BOOT WAREHOUSE, MUIRKIRK.

WHO'S WHO IN 1908**MUIRKIRK CURLING CLUB**

Hon. President—Colonel Baird.

President—Captain Clark.

Vice-Presidents—T. W. Buchanan and D. B. Greenwood.

MUIRKIRK BOWLING CLUB

President—D. B. Greenwood.

Vice-President—John D. Dunbar.

Secretary—Hugh Bell.

Treasurer—John Johnstone.

MUIRKIRK RAMBLERS' CLUB

Hon. President—J. G. A. Baird.

President—Doctor Marshall.

Secretary/Treasurer—Alex. Wallace.

MUIRKIRK ATHLETIC F.C.

President—J. G. A. Baird

Vice-President—M. Anderson.

Secretary—W. Brown, Station Road.

Treasurer—A. Wilson.

LAPRAIK BURNS CLUB

President—Thomas A. Alston.

Vice-President—Thomas Weir.

Secretary—Hugh Cameron.

Treasurer—Andrew Pringle.

MUIRKIRK AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

President—Rev. James Greenshields.

Vice-President—Dr. T. B. Marshall

Secretary—William Barrowman.

Treasurer—George M. Taylor.

MUIRKIRK QUOITING CLUB

President—Sam Rae.

Secretary/Treasurer—William Loggie.

Committee—John Johnstone, John Samson,

Thomas Rae, John Murray, John McGladrie,

Robert Murdoch, and William Clark.

CONSTABULARY

Police Sergeant Suttie came to Muirkirk in 1906 and was replaced by Sergeant Lyle in 1908

OLD FAST DAY

The Sacrament is held on the fourth Sunday of July, and the Fast Day should be observed on the Thursday previous, so that the Fast Day is on the Thursday before the fourth Sunday of the month..

PUBLIC HOUSES

The only public houses mentioned in the files at this time were The Eagle Inn, Eglinton Arms Hotel, The Railway Tavern, and the Royal Arms Glenbuck.

FOOTBALL

Junior football played an important part in the sporting life of the village, and there was great rivalry between the two local teams—Muirkirk Athletic and the legendary Glenbuck Cherrypickers. Among the Ayrshire teams competing at this time were:

Galston Loudon Victoria	Common Thistle
Ayr Ashfield	Skares
Irvine Victoria	Afton Thistle
Dalry Blair	Cronberry Eglinton
Rankinston	Kilwinning Rangers
Hurlford Rovers	Trabboch
Ayr Fusiliers	Dunaskin
Drongan	Craigbank
Ayr Fort	Vale of Garnock

In the final of the Mauchline and District Cup in 1908, Glenbuck Cherrypickers defeated Muirkirk Athletic by 3—0. The teams were:—

Cherries— Docherty; McAuley, Blyth; Jack, Tait, W. Wallace; Brown, D. Hastie, Park, J. Hastie, R. Wallace.

Athletic—Harkness; Baird, Pattison; Kirkwood, Alexander, Hogg; Rennie, Winning, McKenzie, Gilfillan, Adams.

J. Hastings scored all Cherrie's goals in a 5-minute spell in the second half.

In the third replay of the Ayrshire Cup competition Glenbuck Cherrypickers lost to Vale of Garnock by 3-0.

John McAuley, Muirkirk Athletic, signed for Hearts in 1908.

The Toll Park (Strathaven Road opposite Kirkburnhead Toll) and Kameshill Holm Park (Smallburn opposite the Filling Station, and almost completely covered now by the slag bing) were the two football pitches in the village in 1908. Kameshill Holm also boasted a cycle and running track, and this was the venue for sports meetings.

Cherries XI and Muirkirk United were the two local Juvenile teams of the time, and amongst the Ayrshire opposition were:—

Auchinleck Highhouse	Hurlford Thistle
Maybole Ladywell	Ardnith Rovers
Vale of Garnock Strollers	Lugar Boswell
Vale of Dusk	Newmilns

THE MINING INDUSTRY

Coal mining provided most of the work in the district, and the Pits mentioned in the early files were Kames No. 1 and 2, Bankhead Pit, Glespin Colliery, Carmacoup Colliery, Grasshill Pit, and Lightshaw Pit. There were others, and no doubt these will be mentioned in later years.

There were three fatalities at Kames Pit during 1907-08, namely:—

15th September, 1907—Richard Walls (aged 48), labourer.

17th December, 1907—Dan McVey.

9th November, 1908—William Guthrie (aged 32), driver.

Hugh Clark, aged miner, died as the result of an accident at Grasshill Colliery on 21st November, 1908.

In June, 1907, Robert Steven was awarded a First Class Mine Managing Certificate in Edinburgh.

A new mine was opened on the Kennox Leasehold at Carmacoup in 1908.

FIGHT FOR BETTER WAGES

There was some unrest in mining circles locally regarding low wages, and at miners' meetings held in Muirkirk and Glenbuck in September, 1907, it was proposed that an idle day be taken throughout the whole of Wm. Baird & Co.'s Works by way of protesting against the present method of paying monthly. The drawers' wage question was discussed at some length, and the Agent was instructed to put in a demand for 7d on the present rate of 5s 5d, thus raising the maximum up to 6s per day; even at that, it is considered about 1s per day below drawers in other places.

At a meeting in November, 1907, the following resolution was passed—"That this meeting of Muirkirk miners enter our protest against the continued refusal of Wm. Baird & Co. to meet the demand put in by the men for shorter days, and agree, before deciding on more drastic action, to again approach the Co. on the matter."

Miners' meetings held in Glenbuck and Muirkirk in April, 1908, considered what should be done to try and get better wages for the drawers. It was agreed to take a ballot to decide "for" or "against" coming out on strike. 700 workers in the district would be involved.

No report was given about the result of this ballot, and nothing more was written about the dispute during the year.

A letter to the Editor complained about short working at Bankhead Pit.

GREAT VALUE

IN

CHEESE, BUTTER, & HAMS.**CHEDDAR CHEESE**, 8d per lb. in Cuts.**DUNLOP CHEESE**, 7d per lb. in Cuts.**BUTTER**, Very Fine, only 1s 1d per lb.**HAMS**, from 6d to 1s 2d per lb.**JAMES COOK,****FAMILY GROCER AND WINE MERCHANT,
MUIRKIRK.****W. S. BLACKWOOD,**

Stationer, Newsagent, Tobacconist,

POST OFFICE, MUIRKIRK.

Agent—Royal Insurance Company.

Pullar's Dye Works.

American Steam Laundry.

Servants Registry.

Allan, New Zealand, and South
African Shipping Companies.*Any Enquiry promptly attended to.*

THE WEATHER

On the 10th October, 1907, it was said that the River Ayr, as a result of the excessively heavy rain that fell the previous evening, was higher than it had been since 1889. Several bridges in the Parish were washed away, and some of the fields were cleared of their crops.

ENTERTAINMENT

It was obvious from early advertisements that the social life of the village centred round the Temperance Hall in Main Street, where the Salvation Army had its headquarters, and where almost every function in the social calendar was held. Other activities, mainly billiards, carpet bowls, etc., were held in the Baird Institute and the Ironworks Institute (which was opened in 1904), and after the opening of the new Masonic Hall in Main Street some functions of a smaller nature were held there. Of course, the Temperance Hall was the mecca for the big events of the year, viz.:—The Brass Band Bazaar, The Bird Show, the Muirkirk Flower Show, and various other exhibitions.

Some of the best variety concert parties in Scotland, as well as dramatic companies, performed regularly at the Temperance Hall. Amongst the stars were:—Alick Lauder (brother of Harry), Mackenzie Murdoch (violin virtuoso), Mary Finlay (Scotland's leading soprano), and Madam Marie Levant's Orchestra of Ladies. In the field of drama some excellent and ambitious productions were staged, including Rob Roy, Ben Hur, The Face at the Window, and a False Wife. Then there were band contests and singing competitions and the usual annual dances and concerts, which all drew large attendances.

THE MINSTRELS

It was in the Temperance Hall on 25th March, 1908, that Muirkirk Amateur Minstrels made their stage debut. The event was a great success, and we quote:—

Muirkirk Amateur Minstrels (20 voices in all) occupied the Temperance Hall last night and submitted to a crowded house their first entertainment. As showing the popularity of the undertaking, it is only necessary to state that nearly 100 seats were booked in advance.

The first part of the programme consisted of songs and choruses, the solos being undertaken by Messrs William Maxwell, Fred Wilson, John Kellock, John McGladrie, Neil Buchanan, James G. Hodge, and John H. Preston.

The second part of the programme was, to quote the title of one of the items, "a little bit mixed," and consisted of solos by Messrs Donald Montgomery and J. H. Preston; conjuring by Mr William Peters, in which he showed some considerable skill; a saxophone solo by Mr J. Johnstone, the saxophone being a very recent addition to the army of musical instruments, and this occasion being its introduction to a Muirkirk audience; a clog hornpipe by Mr James Wardrop; an exhibition of Indian Club swinging by Mr Thomas Murray; a quartette by

Messrs W. Maxwell, Tom Wilson, Alex. Guthrie, and W. Dunbar; a short sketch entitled "A Little Bit Mixed;" and a screaming farce—"Lodgings to Let," in which J. H. Preston, Fred Wilson, John McGladrie, Neil Buchanan and William Peters (the latter making a substantial "bibbie") took part.

The platform was specially fitted up for the occasion by Messrs W. & J. Blackwood, and represented a drawing room, and the scenic effect of the "niggers" dressed in black trousers, white shirts, red ties and sashes, and seated on the platform in crescent shape, was very fine. Mr William Peters was the interlocutor and "father" of the family, while the corner men were Messrs J. H. Preston, John McGladrie (Tambos), and Fred Wilson and Neil Buchanan (Bones). A special orchestra, composed of Messrs David Henderson and S. Thomson (1st violins), J. and G. Wilson (2nd violins), James Wallace ('Cello), Arch. McDonald (double bass), and Miss Smith (piano) played the incidental music, with Mr J. Johnstone, conductor.

The Minstrels were to become a very popular company in the years ahead.

THE STAR THEATRE

This travelling Theatre was set up at Harkness Ground, and provided some grand entertainment with a change of programme nightly. This was in May, 1909. The first play was "Maria Martin."

NEW MASONIC TEMPLE

On the 27th September, 1907, in a very quiet manner, a jar, the contents of which are noted below, was placed in the north-east corner of the new Masonic Temple, now in the course of erection in Main Street, Muirkirk. The jar was placed in a cavity in the mason work by Bro. D. Greenwood, R.W.M. of Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201. The contents of the jar were as follows:—

Two Communion Tokens of the Parish Church.

One Communion Token of the Free Church.

Two Communion Tokens of the United Presbyterian Church.

A copy of the "Cumnock News."

One copy each of the first two issues of the "Muirkirk Advertiser"

A copy of the second balance sheet of Muirkirk Co-operative Society, as well as one of the last issued by the Society, with a few of their tokens.

A programme of the unveiling ceremony of the Donald Memorial.

Portraits of a few of the Brethren of the Lodge taken for the occasion by Bro. T. B. Marshall.

And a short history of the proceedings leading up to the building of the Temple taken from the minutes by Bro. James Morrison, Secretary.

The new edifice was opened in March, 1908

THE GLENBUCK MURDER

On 2nd April, 1908, Thomas Bone, Jun. (aged 28 years), locally known as "The Dew," was taken in to custody and charged with the murder of his wife (aged 19 years). Bone was tried at Glasgow High Court in May of the same year, when he was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged at Ayr Prison on 29th May. On the eve of the execution day Bone was reprieved by the Secretary of State for Scotland, and had his capital sentence commuted to one of penal servitude for life. (See Page 23).

MONSTER TROUT

The monster trout caught in the spring of 1908 in the River Ayr near Torhill Viaduct, was on view, nicely preserved and in a glass case, and now in the possession of the Landlord of the Eagle Inn. The inscription reads:—"This trout, which was measured 21½ inches in length and scaled 2 lbs. 6 ozs., was caught by Mr Thomas McQueen, Muirkirk, in the River Ayr near Muirkirk on 25th March, 1908, and was preserved and set up to let coming generations see that once upon a time there was a fisher."

STATIONMASTER

Mr W. Y. Millar came to Muirkirk as Stationmaster in 1899, and retired through ill health, and was replaced in September, 1908, by Mr Robert Brown, the predecessor of Mr Millar.

EARLY ADVERTISEMENTS**Lamps for Carts**

Owners of carts should remember that 1st January, 1908, brings into force the New Act whereby all Carts must carry lamps after dark. Same may be had from 3/6 per pair at ARTHUR, SADDLERS

Wanted.—Pitheadman wanted for Carmacoup Colliery. Wages 30s per week.

Carmacoup Jewel Coal.—Delivered in Muirkirk per Cart Load or Waggon—17s per ton.

Con De Mascio.—Fried Fish and Potatoes, Hot Peas and Vinegar, Ice Cream, Bovril.

Painless Dentistry—Mr Bryan visits Miss Callan, Viewmount, Glasgow Road, every Monday:

Best Artificial Teeth from 2s 6d.

Upper or Lower Set from £2 5s

Wellwood Cycles.—Built to order by D. Greenwood—£6 15s.

PRICES IN THE SHOP—1908

Oranges, 5d and 7d lb.	Dozen Tomatoes, 6d lb.
Ayrshire Bacon, 10d per lb	Apples, 1/6 stone.
Potatoes, 10d per stone	Bananas, 10d doz.
Whisky—3s Bottle, 18s Gallon	Danish Butter 1/2 lb.
Toilet Rolls, 4d each	New Potatoes, 2lbs 3d.
Men's Fine Boots, 8/9 pair.	Sugar, 2¼d per lb.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1907**BIRTHS**

- BRADY.—At Manse Row, Glenbuck, on 14th August, the wife of Michael Brady, a son.
- McKINLAY.—At Albert Place on 29th August, the wife of William McKinlay, a son.
- BONE.—At 5 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 31st August, the wife of Hugh Bone, a daughter.
- STEELE.—At Springhill Terrace, on 19th September, the wife of Peter Steele, a son.
- RUSSELL.—At Smallburn on 14th October, the wife of William Russell, a son.
- DEMPSTER.—At Ladybank Row, Glenbuck, on 15th September, the wife of Thomas Dempster, a son.
- LAW.—At Main Street on 8th September, the wife of James Munro Law, a daughter.
- KILPATRICK.—At Garronhill on 25th September, the wife of John Kirkpatrick, a daughter.
- BAIN.—At Old School Row, Glenbuck, on 18th September, the wife of John Bain, a son.
- MORELAND.—At Garronhill, on 25th September, the wife of Hugh Samuel Moreland, a son.
- FERGUSON.—At Jubilee Row, Glenbuck, on 21st September, the wife of Ivy Ferguson, a daughter.
- McGAREY.—At Main Street, on 29th September, the wife of Patrick McGarey, a son.
- CAMPBELL.—At Garronhill on 14th October, the wife of John Campbell, a daughter.
- DEMPSTER.—At Bridge Street, on 4th October, the wife of William Dempster, a daughter.
- MORRISON.—At Eglinton Arms Hotel, on 10th October, the wife of George Morrison, a son.
- PURDIE.—At Glasgow Road on 8th October, the wife of Robert Purdie, a daughter.
- SHANKLY.—At Manse Place, Glenbuck, on 21st October, the wife of John Shankly, a daughter.
- WALLACE.—At Dalziel's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 19th October, the wife of Alex. Wallace, a daughter.
- HIBBERD.—At Burnside on 4th November, the wife of Charles Hibberd, a son.
- McKENZIE.—At 22 Kames Row on 4th November, the wife of John McKenzie, a son.
- ROWE.—At Madeleine Place on 31st October, the wife of Thomas Rowe, a daughter.
- CURRIE.—At Station Cottages, Glenbuck, on 21st November, the wife of David Currie, a son.
- MORRISON.—At Burnbrae Cottage on 10th November, the wife of James Morrison, a daughter.

LOCAL STATISTICS (Continued)**MARRIAGES**

ANDERSON—DORNAN.—At Victoria Buildings on 30th August, Matthew Anderson to Ethel Dornan.

ALLISON—ARNOT.—At Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 8th November, Garret Allison to Maggie Arnot.

DEATHS

MURDOCH.—At 48 Railway Terrace No. 2, on 4th September, James Murdoch, coal miner, aged 61.

HAMILTON.—At Nether Wellwood on 10th September, James Hamilton, Farmer, aged 53 years.

WALLS.—At Kames Pit on 15th September, Richard Walls, aged 48 years.

WALLACE.—At Edinburgh on 19th September, James Tait Wallace, aged 13 years.

PARK.—At Smallburn on 20th September, Sarah Gibson, aged 8 months.

YULE.—At Staion Cottages, Glenbuck, on 23rd September, Isabella Yule, aged 6 years.

McCULLOCH.—At Haystackhill on 27th September, James vallance McCulloch, aged 15 years.

MITCHELL.—At 2 Midhouse Row on 27th September, Archibald Mitchell, aged 70 years.

BARTON.—At Red Row on 17th October, Thomas Barton, aged 39 years.

WEIR.—At Slate House, Glenbuck, on 20th October, David Barr Weir, aged 43 years.

GIBSON.—At Furnace Road, on 5th November, William Gibson, aged 81 years.

COLTHART.—At 19 Victoria Buildings, on 17th November, John Colthart, aged 51 years.

LAMBIE.—At Priesthill on 24th November, James Lambie, aged 73 years.

McKIE.—At Marchhouse on 25th November, Robert McKie, aged 70 years.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1908**BIRTHS**

McDONALD.—At Scott's Buildings on 23rd May, the wife of James McDonald; a daughter.

BELL.—At Old Schoolhouse, Main Street, on 21st June, the wife of Charles Bell, teacher; a daughter.

WALLACE.—At 7 Victoria Buildings on 4th August, the wife of William Wallace; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

GOURLAY—KIRKWOOD.—At Union Hall, Girvan, on 12th June, Thomas Gourlay, Printer, to Elizabeth, daughter of Councillor James Kirkwood.

WILSON—KAIN.—At Ironworks Institute on 19th June, Elizabeth Steele to James Wilson, Dreghorn.

EDGEELL—McKINLAY.—At London on 29th August, Sydney Charles Edgeell to Margaret McKinlay, Kirkgreen

DEATHS

LAW.—At Victoria Buildings on 31st January, Mrs Thomas Law, aged 77 Years.

THOMSON.—At Woodend, Smallburn, on 27th February, Mary Thomson, relict of Alexander Wilson Thomson, for over 20 years in the Royal George.

ENGLISH.—At Garronhill House on 29th March, Thomas English, aged 42 years.

WILSON.—At Rose Cottage on 1st April, Campbell Wilson, aged 11 years.

GILCHRIST.—At Madeleine Place on 8th April, wee Susan, aged 10 months

TEMPLETON.—At 27 Springhill Terrace on 2nd June, Agnes Templeton, aged 23 years.

GREENWOOD.—At Albert Place on 19th September, Isabella Barr, aged 77 years.

KERR.—At 30 New Terrace, on 30th September, Thomas Kerr, aged 56 years.

PATRICK.—At 49 New Terace on 18th October, George Patrick, aged 24 years.

McINTOSH.—At Smallburn on 20th October, David McIntosh, aged 76 years.

DALZIEL.—At 32 Springhill Terrace on 13th November, James M. Dalziel, aged 27 years.

CLARK.—At Vass's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 21st November, the result of an accident, Hugh Clark, in his 68th year.

TELEPHONES

In 1907 it was the "done thing" to get the telephone—this new means of communication—installed.

CON DE MASCIO

Fried Fish and Potatoes

Hot Pies and Vinegar

Ice Cream — Bovril

**PAINLESS
DENTISTRY**

Mr BRYAN

Visits Miss Callan, Viewmount, Glasgow Road

EVERY MONDAY

Best Artificial Teeth from from 2s 6d

Upper or Lower Set from £2 5s

Complete Set £4.

WELLWOOD CYCLES.—

Built to Order by D. Greenwood—£6 15s

CHAPTER TWO

(1909)

DISASTROUS FIRE**Four Shops, Three Dwelling-Houses and
Two Stores Guttled**

(From the July 29th File)

Early yesterday morning, the most disastrous fire that has occurred in Muirkirk for many decades took place. The property attacked was the block of flats, with dwelling houses above, known as Turner's Buildings, and situated on the Southside of Main Street. The shops were occupied by Messrs William Hodge, Jeweller; James Murdoch, Licensed Grocer J. S. Weir & Co., Stationers; and Alex. S. Templeton, Chemist; while the dwelling houses were tenanted by Mr James Murdoch, Mr J. Thorburn, and Mrs Thomas Ross; and the whole building was gutted.

It appears that at about 2 o'clock a.m. Mr James Murdoch discovered smoke in his bedroom, and, as on a previous occasion of a fire in a neighbouring building, smoke had penetrated to his apartment, he went out to investigate, never thinking of it proceeding from his own shop. Seeing nothing to arouse his suspicion in the neighbouring building, he procured the key of his shop, which is situated below his dwelling, and on opening the front door the flames belched out. The alarm was at once given to all the tenants, and those immediately above had no more than time to escape with scant clothing. Cries of "Fire!" sounded all over the village, and in an incredible short time many willing workers were on the spot. Mr Murdoch's front premises were in a blaze, but the fire to some extent was got under control when a cask of spirits took fire, bursting with a loud report, and the back shop was immediately a burning mass. Although a party of workers under Sergeant Lyle did all that men could do, by the back the fire caught the roof, and this being an open one along the entire building, the end was a foregoing conclusion.

While the fire was being fought, the tenants and their friends were endeavouring to save as much as possible of their goods and chattels. Only a thin partition divided Mr Murdoch's shop from that of Mr William Hodge, Jeweller, but much of the latter's stock had been removed before the flames proved an impossible barrier. Messrs Weir and Templeton were also able to save a little of their stock. In the houses above there had been less than time to remove the furniture, as in the latter cases the fire came from the roof, Mrs Ross, we understand, getting very little removed in time, but Mr Thorburn saved practically all his furniture, although it was a little damaged through its hurried removal through the windows. As far as Mr Murdoch is concerned, all that now remains of his stock in trade and furniture is a clothes chest containing a little clothing. Mr John Kerr, who also tenants a small store in the building, had a busy morning flitting, but was successful in clearing out in time. Several horses and dogs in the back premises were also removed to a place of safety, but as it turned out the stables were left intact.

Fortunately, in the midst of it all no person was ever in real danger, and the only life lost, so far as is known, was that of a canary, which had suffocated. With the firing of the roof, it was seen that nothing could be done but look on, and, although very many of the neighbours were carrying pails with water, it was clearly apparent that this was useless. It was fortunate that, owing to the mildness of the morning, and the strength of the dividing wall, the block next to this, and occupied by Mr De Mascio, Mr Cook and others, was saved from the fire, although several times in jeopardy.

A very large crowd witnessed the fire. About eight o'clock a wooden erection was put up around the tottering walls, and immediately afterwards workmen commenced to demolish these, being in a dangerous condition, the wooden lintels burning the while. The damages will amount to several thousands of pounds, and it is understood, the victims are covered with insurance.

N.B.—The building concerned was next to Main Street School, on the site now occupied by Mr James Currie.

WANTED.—Pitheadman wanted for Carmacoup Colliery. Wages 30s per week.

FOR SALE.—Miners' Graith, including Boring Machine and Drills. Private Bargain. Apply Joseph McDonald, Morton Place.

THE BLACK BOTTLE

KIRKGREEN, MUIRKIRK

GLENBUCK WATER

In the File of October 7th the following appears:

The sight of a dozen Glenbuck folks waiting their turn at "The Spoot" will soon be a thing of the past. For some time now the conditions ruling there have been ridiculous, a wait of an hour and a half and about half a pailful at the end of it being no uncommon thing. "Often as much watter as wid rin oot a pipe shank" is how one party put it. Pity there is no picture to hand down to posterity. The contract for introducing water to the village has been let, and work is already being proceeded with. The successful contractor was Mrs James Young, Muirkirk, who was the lowest offerer at £417 19s 3d. The water is being fed from Hareshaw Hill.

QUOITING

In a match for the Championship of Great Britain, played at Rutherglen, Tom Bone (Glenbuck), beat W. Watters (Lochgelly), by 61-52.

PRICES IN THE SHOPS

Oranges—5d and 7d Dozen
 Ayrshire Bacon—10d per lb.
 Potatoes—10d per stone.
 Whisky—3s Bottle, 18s Gall.
 Toilet Rolls—4d Each
 Men's Fine Boots—8/9 Pair
 Tomatoes—6d per lb.
 Apples—1/6 per Stone
 Sugar—2¼d per lb.
 Bananas 10d per dozen
 Danish Butter—13 2d per lb.

LICENSING

In April, 1909, the licence for the Royal Arms, Glenbuck, was transferred to Mr Duncan, Newtongrange; that for the Empire Bar to Mr Gibson, Ibrox; while the licence for the Black Bottle, for many years held by Robert W. Harkness, was transferred to his son, John.

AIRD'S SHOP

MAIN STREET, MUIRKIRK (Across from the Grouse Lounge)

FOOTBALL

Muirkirk boasted two Junior Football teams in 1909, namely the Athletic and the United.

In April that year a local derby game between Muirkirk Athletic and Glenbuck Cherrypickers took place at Kameshill Holm, when the Cherries won a close game by 2—1. The teams were:-

Athletic—Harkness; McCall, McKenzie; Kirkwood, Weir, Alexander; Rennie, Winning, Jack, Caddies, Murdoch.

Cherries—Hastie; Hay, Park; Blyth, Wallace, Samson; Barr, Davidson, McCoubrie, Hastie, Bain.

No silverware came to the district that season, although Glenbuck Cherrypickers reached the final of the Cumnock & District Cup, when they lost to Cronberry Eglinton by 2—1.

The new home of Muirkirk United, Toll Park (near Kirkburnhead Toll, past the Cemetery) was officially opened on 23rd June, the occasion being marked with an evening sports meeting and five-a-side tournament.

Ladeside Park, the new home of Muirkirk Athletic was officially opened on 4th September, when the local United provided the opposition in a League match. The Athletic won 6—1.

EXIT KAMESHILL HOLM AS A PUBLIC PARK

(July 8th Edition)

The Holm as a public park is doomed. Truth to tell, its life has lately been but a flicker, for nine months of the year it has been under water. Drowning, is not, however to be the cause of its demise, but smothering. At the usual weekly meeting of the Sports Committee, held on Monday evening, a letter was read from Mr John Angus stating that this would be the last year the Holm would be available for the sports, as the site was required for the depositing of slag. The letter also stated that Wm. Baird & Co. had for some years been put to considerable inconvenience and expense in avoiding the football pitch, and there is no doubt of this, as, had they cared, football could have been stopped three years ago. It is to be hoped that another field will be secured in which children may conduct their games with safety. What about the field of which the Bowling Club forms a corner?

CO-OPERATIVE PURVEY

Muirkirk Co-operative Society introduced their purvey and catering service in June, 1909.

APPOINTED J.P.'S

Mr John Young, Springhill, and Captain Clark, Crossflat, were appointed to the Commission of the Peace for Ayrshire.

THE SHOWS

The files tell us that the travelling entertainments visited Vinegar Hill at the head of the village.

LOCAL LINK WITH BURNS

It will be interesting to local Burnsites to know that in our old Churchyard there reposes the dust of two persons whose names figure in the immortal poetry of our National Bard, viz.: John Lapraik and Rev. John Shepherd.

The resting place of the remains of John Lapraik, who in Burns' time was Laird at Dalfram, is marked by a threuch (or flat) stone in the centre of the Churchyard. Lapraik being designated by Burns as "honest-hearted Auld Lapraik, King o' Hearts," and whose friendship brought from the pen of Burns three of the best Epistles that he ever wrote. Whether Burns ever visited Dalfram we do not profess to know, but he says in his last Epistle:—

"If the beasts and branks be spared,
Till kye be gaun without the herd,
An' a' the vittal in the yaird,
An' theekit richt,
I mean yer ingleside tae gaird,
Yae winter's nicht.

In the portion allocated to ministers of the Parish, we find the resting place of all that is mortal of Rev. John Shepherd, or, as he is designated by Burns in his "Kirk's Alarm"—"Muirland Jock." The reference is as follows:—

"Muirland Jock, Muirland Jock,
When the L--d maks a rock,
Tae crush commonsense for her sins,
If ill manners were wit,
There's nae mortal sae fit,
Tae confoond the puir Doctor at ance.

NEW AMBULANCE FOR MUIRKIRK

The ambulance waggon as having been ordered by Wm. Baird & Co., for the benefit of the community, arrived in Muirkirk the other day (May, 1909), and it is housed in the Stableyard. The waggon, both handsome and substantial, is direct from the hands of well-known firm of carriage builders, Messrs Wm. Holmes & Son, Irvine, and according to local experts, the conveyance puts like vehicles of Lugar, Old Cumnock, and New Cumnock in the shade, in fact, a clear case of—Muirkirk first, the rest nowhere. While the vehicle is intended for only one sufferer at a time, several could be accommodated. As has been jocularly said, it is to be hoped there will be no undue rush for the first use of it, but it will certainly prove a boon when its services are required.

SCHOLASTIC

School Roll:

Main Street	350
Furnace Road	568
Glenbuck	181
Wellwood	26
St. Thomas'	62
TOTAL	1187

SCHOOL SALARIES

The salaries of various teachers and servants of the School Board were revised in June, 1909, and fixed as follows:—

Main Street School

M. A. Bruce, Headmistress	£110	0	0
Susan Campbell, Assistant	82	10	0
Jessie Leggate, Assistant	82	10	0
Jemima Jack, Assistant	75	0	0
Elizabeth Gibson, Assistant	75	10	0
Mary R. Dorward, Ex-Pupil Teacher	62	10	0
Mary Kerr, Ex-Pupil Teacher	57	10	0

Furnace Road School

Richard Cunningham, Headmaster	£240	0	0
James G. Richmond, Assistant	140	0	0
Charles P. Bell, Assistant	140	0	0
William S. Pirrie, Assistant	130	0	0
Isobel S. Aird, Assistant	95	0	0
Isabella Smith, Assistant	82	10	0
Jeanie Sunderland	82	10	0
Hazel McKenzie, Assistant	72	10	0
Kate Gibson, Assistant	72	10	0
Mary Aird, Assistant	70	0	0
Mabel Faux, Assistant	70	0	0
Janet Muir, Cookery Teacher, per week	1	0	0
Mrs Seymour, cleaning at Cookery, per week ...	0	1	6

Glenbuck School

John Rodger, Headmaster	£200	0	0
Jenny Bain, Infant Mistress	100	0	0
Margaret M. Aird, Assistant	72	10	0
Mabel Eales, Assistant	70	0	0
Janet Muir, Cookery, per week	0	10	0

Wellwood School

Jessie F. Ross, Teacher	£75	0	0
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Others

James McCheyne, Drill Instructor	£45	10	0
James McCheyne, Compulsory Officer	22	10	0
Andrew Millar, Janitor and Cleaner	75	0	0

(Main Street and Furnace Road)

Mrs Davidson, Cleaner, Glenbuck	24	0	0
Mr Robertson, cleaning ashpits at Glenbuck	1	15	0
R. A. Leslie, Clerk	55	0	0
Robert White, Office Boy, per week	0	7	6
Mrs Irvine, Cleaner Wellwood School, per wk	0	5	0
J. Foster, cleaning Wellwood ashpits, p.a	0	10	0

SCHOOL BOARD

In April, 1909, the election of members for Muirkirk School Board resulted as follows:—

Carruthers, David	1197
Clark, James	1069
Wilson, Mrs	914
Young, John	890
Johnstone, James	629
Wallace, Alex.	585
Kitch, Frank	506
Kerr, John	412
Weir, John	380

WHO'S WHO**Ironworks Horticultural Society**

President—John Angus
 Vice-President—John Young
 Chairman—John McCulloch
 Secretary/Treasurer—Alex. Cameron

Parish Silver Band

President—Richard Cunningham
 Secretary—J. H. Preston
 Treasurer—Mr Vallance

TEETOTALS

There was a teetotal wave in the district at this time, as the following membership figures show:—

Muirkirk

Thistle Tent Rechabites ..	401
Cameronian Tent	323
Dr. Campbell Tent	158
I.O.G.T. (Adult)	61
I.O.G.T. (Juvenile)	78
B.W.T.A.	50

Glenbuck

Rechabites (Adult)	66
Rechabites (Juvenile)	94
I.O.G.T.	56
TOTAL	1287

KAMES DRIVERS

A competition for keeping the cleanest horses in Kames No. 2 Pit resulted:—

1st—R. Strickland	5th—J. McIllwraith
2nd—Thomas Kelly	6th—W. Strickland
3rd—Andrew Murdoch	7th—R. Hill
4th—J. Dodds	

SOME MORE PRICES OF THE TIME

Bridescake Boxes—1d each.
 Pineapple Chunks—4½d per tin.
 New Barrows—14s each.
 Bible and Hymnary—1/3 upwards.
 Rice—1½d per lb.
 Split Peas—1½d per lb.
 Black Stripped Balls—4d per lb.
 Peppermints—4d per lb.
 Vauz Beer and Stout—3d per bottle.
 Beer and Stout on Draught—2½ per pint
 Cigarettes—
 Park Drive and Studio—2d for 10
 Black Cap, Prize Crop, and Capstan—3d for 10
 Gold Flake—3½d for 10
 Tobacco—Thick Black, 4d per oz. or 7½d per 2 oz.

THREATENED COAL STRIKE

There were rumblings of discontent in the mining industry in general, with calls for an all out strike. The Scottish miners were practically unanimous for a strike at this time to resist the reduction of 6d per day off their wages. In July, 1909, the local ballot of miners for strike action resulted:—

For Strike—527 Against Strike—31

The National figures were:—

For Strike—518,316 Against Strike—62,980

Unfortunately, nothing more of the strike was reported that year, and we can only assume that the threatened strike did not materialise.

OLD AGE PENSIONERS

On 2nd January, 1909, 35 recipients had their first old age pension handed them, and this number comprises nearly all granted pensions meantime in Muirkirk.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Temperance Hall continued to be the mecca for the entertainment life of the village, with such productions as "East Lynne," "Laughing Water," Mackenzie Murdoch's Merry Makers; Durward Lely and Company in "A Royal Divorce," and many others.

ANNUAL EVENTS

The usual annual events were held in the village at that time, and here are a few of the more popular ones:—

Lapraik Burns Club Burns Supper
 Southside Musical Association Burns Supper
 Co-operative Society Social (The Store Guzzle!)
 Arts and Crafts Exhibition
 Glenbuck Annual Games
 Muirkirk Cycling and Sports Club Annual Sports
 Co-operative Children's Gala Day
 Muirkirk Horticultural Society Flower Show
 Ironworks Flower Show.

Mr WILLIAM SHAW SMITH

Founder of the "Muirkirk Advertiser."

Miss SUNDERLAND

Music Teacher
 at Muirkirk Higher Grade School,
 Furnace Road

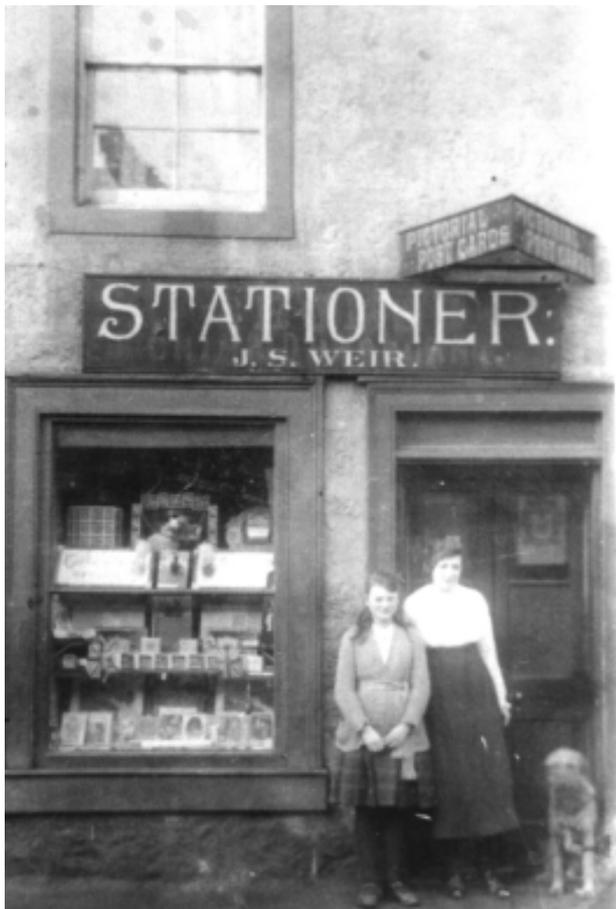
THE FIRST PRINTING OFFICE

The very first Printing Office was situated in Main Street and occupied the ground where now stands Mrs Jenny Crosbie's Bungalow. In the photo are Jean Barrie, Jenny Wilson, and Peggy Stacey. At the front is John Samson, who was later to succeed W. S. Smith as editor of the "Advertiser."

THE LEGENDARY BILL SHANKLY, GLENBUCK



JOHN S. WEIR, Newsagents



Situated in Main Street
Premises now occupied by Convenience Store.
In the Photograph is Peggy Thomson and Mrs Nancy Weir.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1909

BIRTHS

SELKIRK.—At 7 Midhouse Terrace on 21st March, the wife of James Selkirk, a son.

DE MASCIO.—At Main Street on 6th September, the wife of Con De Mascio, a daughter.

YOUNG.—At Springhill on 4th September, to Mr and Mrs John Young, a daughter.

CONNISS.—At Main Street on 18th October, to Mr and Mrs E. J. Connis, a son.

No Marriages were advertised in 1909.

DEATHS

GREENWOOD.—At Glasgow on 5th January, Joseph Greenwood, aged 78 years (late of Muirkirk).

SMITH.—At Glasgow Road on 13th February, William (third son of William and Mary Smith), aged 2 years 9 months.

McCALL.—At Kirkgreen on 13th March, Susan Parker, beloved wife of William McCall, aged 41 years.

PEARSON.—At 13 Victoria Buildings on 10th May, Mrs Pearson, in her 88th year.

ROSS.—At Garronhill House on 25th May, Jeanie Weir, beloved wife of Daniel Ross.

SCOTT.—At Fergus Place on 28th May, Archibald Scott, aged 52 years.

PATRICK.—At 3 Springhill Terrace on 3rd July, Christina McKenzie, relict of George Patrick, aged 26 years.

BELL.—At 58 Kames Row on 7th November, Agnes (youngest daughter of John and Margaret Bell), aged 4 years.

SAMSON.—At 15 Victoria Buildings on 20th November, George Samson, aged 28 years

SOME NEW ADVERTISERS

DAVID McCONNACHIE,
Tailor and Clothier, Furnace Road.

NOTICE OF MANGLING—
Mrs John Samson, Harkness Buildings.
Best Work, Moderate Prices.

WILLIAM SERVICE,
Teacher of Dancing

ALEX. S. TEMPLETON
Chemist and Druggist, Main Street.

Mr A. HIGGIE—
Extracts Teeth Painlessly at any hour—Clutha Cottage.

N. BUCHANAN, Plumber.

CHAPTER THREE

(1910)

MUIRKIRK PARISH CHURCH

The resignation of the Rev. R. Montgomery as Minister of Muirkirk Parish Church was announced, and in May, 1910, Mr Montgomery preached his farewell sermon in May. Mr Montgomery had been Minister in Muirkirk for 31 years, but ill health had forced him to retire, and he shortly left for Canada. The village was shocked to learn of his death in Canada later the same year.

Voting for a Minister to fill the vacant charge took place in August, and the result was announced as follows:—

Mr John Henderson, B.D.	154
Mr John McWilliam, B.D.	67
Mr Charles W. Farish, B.D.	31
Mr James Eadie, B.D.	5
Against all the above mentioned..	3
	261

The total electorate of the Church at that time numbered 794.

On 21st September the Rev. John Henderson was inducted to the Church and Parish of Muirkirk



THE REV. JOHN HENDERSON, B.D.

MUIRKIRK PARISH COUNCIL

The election of Parish Councillors resulted:—

John Shaw	211
James Murdoch	205
John H. Preston	165
Walter Weir	141
James Young	141
Father Bohan	111
David Greenwood	111

As only four candidates were required, the Returning Officer gave his casting vote in favour of Mr Walter Weir.

MUIRKIRK GOLF CLUB

Early in 1910 Muirkirk Golf Club was officially formed, and the nine-hole course at Auldhouseburn was opened for play. There was an initial membership of about 50. The officials were:—

- Hon. President—John Angus, J.P.
- President—John Young, J.P.
- Vice-President—Doctor Carruthers
- Secretary & Treasurer—William S. Smith

IN MINING CIRCLES

The miners' holidays for 1910 were fixed as follows—Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd July.

On 7th March, Timothy Smith, 16 years of age, who was an underground horse driver at Kames Pit, was killed in an accident.

There was another sad fatality at Kames on 6th July, when John Williamson (aged 14 years), son of Hugh Williamson, Midhouse Terrace, met with a severe accident, which ended fatally three days later. John was a pony driver.

On 16th November at Lightshaw Colliery, John Clowes (60), lost his life in a pithead accident.

The annual general meeting of the local Branch of the Miners' Union, was held in October, 1910. Since January of that year 30 clearance cards had been granted to miners going abroad—a sign of the great uncertainty in the mining industry at that time. The heaviest death rate amongst members had been experienced during the previous twelve months, as over £54 had been paid locally for funeral claims.

Messrs Wm. Baird & Co. had agreed to offer the following increases:—Firemen, 4d per day; Roadsmen and Shanksmen, 3d per day; Drawers with 3s 6d upwards, 3d per day; under that 2d per day; Bottomers and Drivers, 2d per day.

LICENSING

The licence recently held by Mr Wiliam Gibson for the Empire Bar was transferred to Mr James T. Angus, Kingskettle, Fife, in October.

FREEZING TEMPERATURES

In January, at Wellwood, 34 degrees of frost were recorded. Only once during the previous 30 years (in 1894) has two degrees below zero been registered at Wellwood.

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

In 1910 a byre, stable, and slaughterhouse was built by Muirkirk Co-operative Society at its Main Street Branch.

SOME MORE PRICES

- Meat Pies—2d.
- Brasso—2d.
- Aerated Waters—2d per Bottle.
- Sunlight Soap—1-lb. bar, 3d.
- Golf Balls—6d, 10d, 1s, and 1s 3d
- Ladies' Tan Shoes—10/6 pair.
- Fruit Jubjubes—4d per lb.
- Mens' Simmets and Pants—from 1/3.
- Tweed Caps—1/6.
- Gardening Watering Can—1/3.
- Cherry Blossom Boot Polish—1d and 2½d tin
- Envelopes—2s for 1,000.
- Turkish Delight—6d per lb.

FIRE AT BANKHEAD PIT

About midnight on Saturday, 15th October, fire broke out in the winding engine house at Bankhead Pit (leased by the Cairntable Gas Coal Co. Ltd.), and in a very short space of time all that remained of the building was the bare walls. The night engineman, it appears, left the enginehouse for a few minutes to attend to the pumping engine in another house, and when he returned the floor of the enginehouse was in flames. Situated below the floor of the enginehouse was the oil house, so that circumstances favoured the fire. The alarm was at once given, the Manager (Mr Shaw) informed, and many willing workers were early on the scene. The building itself was quickly a mass of shapeless ruin. Attention was at once directed in an endeavour to restrict the scope of the fire, and only heroic efforts on the part of the workers prevented it spreading to the pithead frame. What fire-extinguishing apparatus there was at the pit (outside of course of the usual pails &c.) was inside the burning building, so that recourse had to be made to the more antiquated methods. The woodwork of the frame did actually catch fire, as the wind fanned the flames in that direction, but not withstanding the terrific heat the workmen kept pouring water as best they could on the material. The fire latterly burned itself out, although all Sunday it smouldered, and several times it threatened to break out a fresh.

During the fire the wire winding rope snapped and the two cages fell to the pit bottom. Only one man was engaged down the pit at the time (an engine-man), and although communication with the pit by the usual channel had been shut off, no anxiety was felt as to his safety. A messenger was despatched per the "ingaun e'e" to inform him of the position of matters, and he was found eating his piece, and awaiting developments. On Sunday, the day being fine, the scene was visited by a large number of the villagers, that being the popular "walk." On Monday morning operations were commenced to re-connect the steam pipes with the engine, with a view to ascertaining the damage done to the latter. By the fire nearly 100 men are temporarily out of work.

The Pit re-opened on 9th November.

GLENBUCK WATER

Glenbuck village has suffered severely for years from an inadequate supply of water. In summer and dry weather "The Spout" was the scene of many an assembly of housewives, and where the news of the district was thrashed out on many a well-contested battle of tongues, but that has now passed away.

About ten years ago the County authorities appointed a Committee to deal with the matter, but they found them selves confronted with many difficulties, the most formidable being the small district, the area and valuation being so small that it was prohibitive for the purpose of having a good scheme. Last year the village was in starvation of water, the population was less owing to the closing of some of the pits, and thus increased the difficulty of taxation. The Committee did not lose heart, and approached Mr Charles Howatson of Glenbuck, who, after discussing various details and arriving at a satisfactory

result, generously agreed to let the County Council have a supply from springs on the Hareshaw Hill on his land, the only condition being that he should be allowed to take a supply from his house and one or two tenants, from the tank to be erected. This cleared the way of the Committee considerably, and they were further very generously helped by Mr J. G. A. Baird of Muirkirk and Messrs Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd., through Mr Robert Angus of Ladykirk allowing their house to be included in the Rating District, though each of them had formerly provided supplies for themselves. The area for rating was thus increased and the burden lightened for those in the village proper and on the Cairntable side.

On Friday last (28th April) the Engineer, Mr Eaglesham, Ayr, with Mr Young (Contractor), Muirkirk, along with Mr Howatson of Glenbuck and Mr John Kerr, Convener of the Committee, visited Glenbuck, and, after seeing that the work was all in order, turned on the water, which is of excellent quality and in abundant supply.

By September, however, all was not well with the water in Glenbuck, as the report in the September 22 issue explains:—

Water(?) Supply

In response to several notices posted throughout the village, a very largely attended meeting of ratepayers was held in the Public Hall on Wednesday evening last. According to the notice, the business was "to take steps to see about the water supply being seen into." Mr William Hastie, sen., presided, and introduced the business, stating that they were all aware of what was the cause of the meeting. He then spoke of the new water supply and the very bad water that was passing through the pipes. They felt something must be done to remedy the evil. There was no doubt they would have to pay the price of good water, and that was what they were not getting. He then called for an expression of opinion from those present. The expressions that found vent were few, spouters being scarce, but, like the parrot they thumped away at the thinking. It was ultimately decided that a public petition be got up drawing the attention of the authorities to the state of the water, that same to be presented to the Parish Council at their first meeting. The petition had already been got up, and signed by almost every ratepayer in the district. It is felt that the mixture may be quite wholesome, and meat and drink combined, but the inhabitants would prefer them separately.

Council Meeting

At a meeting of the Sub-Committee on 7th October, Mr Angus reported that he, along with Mr Kerr, had accompanied the Engineer over the Glenbuck water supply, and having discussed the matter with the Engineer, he expected that, with the carrying out of a few simple suggestions, all complaints about the state of the water would be remedied, and they had authorised the Engineer to get the work done.

PLEASURE DRIVE TO DARVEL—

Return Fare, 2/6.

FOOTBALL NEWS

Severe winter conditions drastically curtailed the football programme in 1910, and the first game of the year was not played in Muirkirk until 5th March, when Muirkirk United met Glenbuck Cherrypickers in the Mauchline and District Cup. The Cherries won 4—3. Teams:—*United*—Murray; Bell, Gebbie; Clark, Pirie, Hogg; Brown, Bone, Duncan, Crawford, Lochrie. *Cherries*—W. Hastie; Muir, J. Hastie; Shearer, Tait, Wallace; Crosbie, Park, Crawford; McCoubrie, Brown.

In the final of the Cumnock and District Cup Glenbuck Cherrypickers lost to Cronberry Eglinton by five goals to nil.

For season 1910-11 the United decided to drop their Junior team, but continued to run a Juvenile combination.

By the kindness of Mr Angus, the playing pitch at Ladeside Park was renewed.

At Glenbuck, the Cherries entertained the well-known Senior side, Nithsdale Wanderers, in a friendly. The Wanderers won 2—1.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION, 1910

South Ayrshire result:—

W. P. BEAL. (Liberal)	8833
T. W. McINTYRE (Unionist)	6793
Liberal Majority	2040
Liberal Majority in 1906	1241

LOCAL STATISTICS, 1910**BIRTHS**

LOGGIE.—At Rose Cottage on 18th November, to Mr and Mrs Allan Loggie, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

ROWE—MILLS.—At Glasgow on 17th February, Ezekiel Gaven Rowe, of Muirkirk, to Jeannie Mills, Kent.

BUCHANAN—LEGGATE.—At Masonic Hall on 25th March, Neil Buchanan, jr., to Jean Leggate.

HAMILTON—McKINLAY.—At Kirkgreen on 2nd September, John James Hamilton to Grace McKinlay.

DEATHS

McCALL.—At Glasgow Road, on 24th February, John McCall, beloved son of George and Lizzie McCall, aged 10 months.

FORSYTH.—At Bridgend, Glenbuck, on 27th March, Ann Callan (widow of James Forsyth), aged 65 years.

GEMMELL.—At Garpel on 11th April, Gilbert A. Gemmell, farmer, aged 29 years.

McCRINDLE.—At Victoria Buildings on 9th May, Maggie Dornan (beloved wife of Alexander McCrindle), aged 29 years.

DEATHS (Cont.)

SAMSON.—At Madeleine Place on 23rd May, John Samson (beloved husband of Bella Herbertson), aged 46 years.

RITCHIE.—At Main Street on 9th June, Margaret Ritchie, late of Loudoun.

WLLIAMSON.—At 13 Midhouse Terrace on 9th July, John Williamson (beloved son of Hugh and Janet Williamson), aged 14 years.

FINDLAY.—At Manse Lane on 25th July, Maggie (beloved daughter of Thomas and Sarah Findlay), aged 9 years.

MURCHIE.—At Bankend on 22nd July, Hugh Murchie, aged 70 years.

SERVICE.—At Belvedere Hospital on 29th July, Daniel Service (beloved husband of Nellie Steven), aged 32 years.

DOUGLAS.—At Fergus Place, on 8th August, John Barclay (beloved son of of William and Margaret Douglas), in his 3rd year.

ADAMSON.—At Main Street, Robert Adamson (for 27 years Precentor in Muirkirk Parish Church), in his 72nd year.

LOGIE.—At The Square on 10th October, Agnes Kean (beloved wife of William Logie), aged 34 years.

McCALL.—At Kilbirnie on 10th October, Jessie McCall (daughter of Willaim McCall, Kirkgreen), in her 17th year.

ROBERTSON.—At Cumnock Hospital on 13th October, Robert A. Robertson (beloved son of Archibald and Janet Robertson, Spireslack), aged 8 years.

SHEARER.—At Lower Hall, Muirkirk, on 16th October, Joan Crawford Park (beloved wife of William Shearer).

CLOWES.—Accidentally killed at Lightshaw Pit on 18th November, John Clowes, Ashieburn, aged 60 years.

SHAW.—At Glasgow Road on 6th December, Jane Shaw (beloved mother of Alex. Shaw), aged 73 years.

WILSON.—At Niagra Falls, Canada, On 23rd November, Mrs David Wilson, in her 74th year (late of Dalfram).

WOODBURN.—At 50 New Terrace on 20th december, John Woodburn, in his 81st year

NEW ADVERTISERS

Miss SMITH—Pianoforte Tuition, Masons Arms.

WILLIAM THORBURN—Ladies' & Gent.'s Tailor.

J. H. MITCHELL—Fishing Tackle.

Mrs BROWN—Boot & Shoe Dept., Victoria Buildings.

JAMES BROWN—Painter & Paperhanger, Main Street.

MINNIE E. TEASEDALE—Piano Tuition, Railway Bds.

IRONWORKS STORE.

JAMES MARSHALL—Draper, Mathieson's Buildings.

JOHN CAMPBELL, Fishmonger.

CHAPTER FOUR

(1911)

IN MINING CIRCLES

The sons of Muirkirk have done her and themselves credit in connection with the recent examination held in Edinburgh, in that four students succeeded in gaining their first-class mine manager's certificate, that being the total number from this district who sat the examination. The students were:—Messrs James Strickland, William Jack, Archibald McCall, and Andrew Moreland.

SALE AT BANKHEAD COLLIERY

Friday last (8th September) saw the dispersal of the plant, under the auctioneer's hammer, at Bankhead Pit. It is now a few good weeks since operations in the Pit were concluded, and since then workmen have been busy drawing rails, pipes, rods, etc., and preparing for final removal, the whole presenting a scene of desolation on Friday.

AN EARLY YOKE

In answer to the question, "Are you in favour of starting work on the working Saturday at 5.30 a.m. and stopping at 1.30 p.m.?" a ballot of miners in the Parish was taken last week (October) and resulted as follows:—

	For	Against
Muirkirk Pits	342	108
Glenbuck Pits	131	51
	473	159

FOOTBALL MEETING

At the Annual general Meeting of the Cherrypickers F.C., held the other evening, the treasurer gave the financial report for the year. The income from all sources amounted to £101 16s, and the expenditure to £88 14s 40½d, leaving a balance in hand of £13 1s 7½d. The report was considered most satisfactory.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

The result was as follows—

John Young	1015
Docor Carruthers	822
Mrs Wilson	770
James Clark	746
Alex. Wallace	715
Frank Kitch	683
James Johnstone	473
John S. Weir	441
Andrew Higgie	150

843 Electors polled out of a possible 1210. There were seven spoiled papers.

FOOTBALL

In April Glenbuck Cherrypickers met Ardeer Thistle in the twice undecided Ayrshire Junior Cup Final at Beechwood Park, Auchinleck. The Cherries won 5—0. Team:—Bryden; Kerr, Tait; Crosbie, Barr, W. Wallace McPike, Weir, Park, McKnight, R. Wallace.

In the final of the Mauchline & District Cup Muirkirk Athletic met Cronberry Eglinton. The Athletic, who lost 4—2, were represented by:—Harkness McCall, McAuley; Gibson, Hogg, McKenzie; Pirie, Rennie, Laidlaw, McFegan, Barrie.

In the final of the Glasgow House Shield, the Cherries Juvenile team beat Lanemark Athletic by 2—1.

In the first round of the Scottish Junior Cup, the Athletic drew with the Cherries at Ladeside Park 1—1, and in the replay at Burnside Park Glenbuck won 3—1. Teams:—

Cherries—A. Park; Whiteford, Tait; Williamson, W. Wallace, Samson; McPike Skillen, J. Park, Davidson, R. Wallace.

Athletic—Armour; McKenzie, Kean; Davidson, Hogg, Pirie; Rennie, McNair, Crawford, Inglis, Barrie

JAMES BROWN, Fruiterer

moved to new premises a little further along Main Street—the site of the recent fire.

WATER FAMINE SCARE

Just as we go to Press (14th Sept.) we learn that a meeting of the Water Committee has hurriedly been called for this afternoon, with a view to having the water supply shut off for a period during each day. In the circumstances, it is hoped all will do their utmost to prevent the water being wasted.



DOCTOR CARRUTHERS

BILLIARDS

The annual fixture between the two local Institutes resulted as follows:—

Baird Institute

	1st	2nd
W. Barclay	150	136
J. Clement	150	150
J. Kennedy, Jr.	150	150
T. McKie	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
	600	586

Ironworks Institute

	1st	2nd
J. Donald	137	150
G. Templeton	94	97
B. McDade	61	106
R. Strickland	<u>115</u>	<u>131</u>
	407	484

CARPET BOWLING

Carpet Bowling was a very popular indoor sport in Muirkirk at this time, and hardly a week went past without some challenge match taking place. Amongst the Clubs were:— Wellwood, Baird Institute, Ironworks Institute, Glenbuck, Inches, Men of the Mosshags (Middlefield), Greenock Water, and Townhead Wanderers.

BOWLING

The annual opening match of the new season at Muirkirk Bowling Green resulted:—

President

Thomas Hazle	20
William Hogg	10
John Gray	17
William Loggie	<u>18</u>
	64

Vice-President

Hugh Bell	5
William Anderson	15
T. W. Buchanan	12
William Thomson	<u>9</u>
	51

REGISTRAR'S RETURN

	1911	1910	Increase	Decrease
Births	147	126	21	0
Marriages	28	33	0	5
Deaths	68	60	8	0

VACCINATIONS, 1911

Births	126
Successfully Vaccinated	81
Conscientious Objectors	27
Died before Vaccination	11
Insusceptibility	1
Still Postponed	<u>6</u>
Total	126

THE CENSUS

The Census returns show the population of the Parish as at 1st April last:—

1911

	Male	Fem	Total
Muirkirk Village	1212	1099	2311
Landward Ward	243	238	481
Ironworks Ward	837	625	1462
Glenbuck Ward	<u>390</u>	<u>3387</u>	<u>28</u>
	2682	2300	4982

1901

	Male	Fem	Total
Muirkirk Village	1272	1101	2373
Landward Ward	360	280	640
Ironworks Ward	804	685	1489
Glenbuck Ward	<u>675</u>	<u>493</u>	<u>1168</u>
	3111	2559	5670

Decrease:—

Muirkirk Village	62
Landward Ward	59
Ironworks Ward	27
Glenbuck Ward	380
New Railway Huts	160
Removed	688

SOME MORE NEW ADVERTISERS

MISS FLOYD, Dressmaker, Wee Torhill.

JAS. GILCHRIST, Plumbing & Gasfitting, Hedge Grove

Mrs M. G. HUTCHISON, Pianoforte Tuition, St. Bride's

LIZZIE HAMILTON, Piano Tuition, Lennox Place.

MUIRKIRK SOUTHSIDE PIPE BAND

Mrs G. TAYLOR, Clairvoyant and Palmistry, Lawson's Buildings.

MANSEFIELD, Bootmaker, Glasgow Road.

DENTISTRY—Mr Walter Telfer consults at the Masonic Hall every Thursday

MUIRKIRK MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

J. FORBES, Coal Merchant, Wellwood Street.

FRANCIS FARMER, Blacksmith, Corner of Glasgow Road and Main Street (the site of the Drapery Department)

CUMNOCK RACERS & FAIR

JAMES DONAGHY, Shoemaker, Main Street

KAMES PENNY SAVINGS BANK

JAMES McCARTNEY, Angler & Fly Dresser, Waulkmill

JOHN D. DUNBAR, Grain Merchant.

CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1911**BIRTHS**

BUCHANAN.—At Bridge Street on 28th May, to Mr and Mrs Neil Buchanan; a son.

MARRIAGES

FOSTER—MILLIGAN.—At Whithorn on 31st January, Margaret Ferguson to Andrew Milligan.

TEMPLETON—VALLANCE.—At Smallburn on 2nd June, Robert Templeton (Lockerbie) to Lizzie Vallance.

HAMILTON—ALDIE.—At Broughty Ferry on 11th July, John McKay Hamilton (Glenbuck) to Mary Aldie.

BROOM—VENT.—At Coatbridge on 14th July, James Broom (late of Muirkirk) to Polly Vent.

MILLAR—KERR.—At Temperance Hall on 21st July, George Wilson to Mary Kerr.

DEATHS

HAZLE.—At Burnside on 1st January, Mary McKie, aged 69 years, beloved wife of John Hazle.

SHAW.—At Garronhill on 27th January, John Shaw (beloved son of William and Jane Shaw), aged 24 years.

DA PRATO.—At Children's Hospital, Glasgow, on 27th January, John (beloved son of Mr and Mrs Da Prato), aged 1 year.

KERR.—At Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, on 1st March, Janet Muir, aged 53 years (beloved wife of John Kerr, Grocer, Muirkirk, and second daughter of the late Robert Muir, Colliery Manager, Glenbuck).

STRICKLAND.—At 21 Midhouse Terrace on 6th March, Wee Mary, aged 4 months.

HOGG.—At Hope Villa on 13th March, Elizabeth Kerr, in her 85th year (relict of John Hogg, Baker).

MURDOCH.—At Ironworks Institute on 17th March, Adam Murdoch (beloved husband of Agnes Murdoch), aged 33 years.

PEARSON.—At Glasgow Royal Infirmary on 21st March, William Pearson, sen., in his 87th year.

BROWN.—At Ladybank Terrace, Glenbuck, on 13th April, William Brown, beloved husband of Margaret Brown.

CALLAN.—At Main Street on 26th June, Christina Callan, aged 81 years.

COOK.—At Delta Cottage on 29th May, Robert (infant son of James and Margaret Cook).

FINDLAY.—At Ayr Hospital on 30th May, James Findlay, aged 14 years (beloved son of Thomas and Sarah Findlay, 50 Springhill Terrace).

WILSON.—At Wanlass Place on 9th June, William Wilson (beloved husband of Elizabeth Wanlass), aged 60 years.

SAMSON.—At Albert Place on 27th February, Archibald, aged 9 months (beloved son of David and Rosina Samson)

DEATHS (Continued)

BLACKWOOD.—At Post Office, Muirkirk, on 5th July, William Spence Blackwood (retired Postmaster), in his 75th year.

GIBSON.—At Glasgow Road on 9th July, John (beloved son of Robert and Margaret Gibson) aged 24 years.

BROWN.—At The Lodge, Glenbuck, on 17th July, Isabella, infant daughter of David and Mary Brown.

JACK.—At Bridge Street on 23rd July, Elizabeth Hamilton (eldest daughter of John and Mary Jack), aged 9 years.

STEELE.—At Furnace Road on 13th July, Wee Jean (youngest daughter of Robert and Lizzie Steele), aged 1 year 65 months.

BLACK.—At 24 Springhill Terrace, on 30th July, Neil Black, aged 68 years.

McINTOSH.—At Glasgow Road on 30th July, Barbara McIntosh (widow of David McIntosh), aged 76 years.

BANKS.—At 35 Springhill Terrace on 6th August, William (beloved son of Daniel and Kate Banks), aged 1 year 11 months.

CAMPBELL.—At Torhill Cottage on 15th August, Janet Frew (beloved wife of John Campbell), aged 49 years.

BERTRAM.—At Castle, Glenbuck, on 8th September Robina (Eldest daughter of Durham and Elizabeth Bertram), in her 12th year.

BELL.—At Gibson's Buildings, Glasgow Road, on 10th September, Richard (son of James and Janet Bell), aged 9 months.

MOONEY.—At 6 Springhill Terrace on 21st October, Agnes Brown (beloved wife of Arthur Mooney), aged 68 years.

ANDERSON.—At Pearson's Buildings, Smallburn, on 12th November, Annie Patrick (relict of James Anderson), aged 84 years.

SMITH.—At Linkieburn Square on 23rd November, Agnes Anderson (beloved wife of Archibald Smith), aged 35 years.



Mr JOHN H. PRESTON (Gent.'s Hairdresser)

CHAPTER FIVE

1912

MUIRKIRK CINEMA

Another landmark in the field of entertainment in the village was the opening of Muirkirk Cinema in November, 1912. The files record:—

Under most auspicious circumstances this new, yet old place of entertainment (The Temperance Hall) was opened on Saturday last. The premises are old in that for many years they have formed the principal entertainment house in the town, new through now being transformed into a picture palace and leased to a cinema firm. The circumstances were auspicious in that there were three performances, and at each there was a good attendance. Contrary to some orthodox methods of drawing the crowd a grand flourish of exciting films was not made the first evening, for some good stand-by films were utilised, the management being content to maintain a high standard of excellence right through the season, and have no spasmodic outbursts. The exhibition can compare favourably with any of the city shows, for the apparatus is completely up to date, while a guarantee is made that a thoroughly healthy entertainment will be given on all occasions. The hall, owing partly to restrictions by the authorities as to safety, and partly in order that a better view of the pictures may be had, has been quite transformed, a raised terraced platform having been erected at the back of the hall, while all doors open outwards, and an extra door added. The first programme included:—

The Black Chancellor (A powerful, exciting, three-spool drama)—Don't Miss it!

Waiting at the Church (A Comedy illustrating a Bridegroom's Dilemma).

A Passer—By (Drama).

In the Grocery Business (A Screaming Comedy).

Shows were twice nightly at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., and the admission was 3d and 6d.

FOOTBALL

Muirkirk Athletic made a great start to season 1912-13, having a good run in the Scottish Junior Cup competition. In the first round they beat St. Andrew's Juniors (Kilmarnock) 4—0, accounting for Dreghorn in the second round (1—0), travelling to Kello Rovers in the third round and winning 2—1, and in the fourth round they beat Aberdeen Hawthorn 1—0 at Ladeside Park. Then on the 28th December they entertained another Aberdeen side, Parkvale, at Ladeside Park and won 2—1, thus taking them into the 6th round of the National Tournament, a feat never before accomplished by a Muirkirk team. The Athletic were represented by :—Rae; Dysart, Gebbie; Ramsay, Hogg, Crawford, Rennie, McNair, Raeside, Findlay, Barrie.

(More in Next Chapter)

MINING

The ballot for a local collector and agent resulted—

David S. Stitt 225

Alex Ross 218

Thomas Morrison 96

John Gold 35

In December John McCall was appointed as an additional checkweigher at Kames No. 1 and 2 Pits.

THE MINERS' STRIKE

There can be no doubt that the big coal strike was the main story of 1912, and this cast a dark shadow over the village, as it did over all mining communities in the country. Below are how the events were recorded in the "Advertiser:"

7th March

In common with the miners all over Britain, the local miners finished up last Thursday evening, and have been on strike since. A very optimistic feeling exists among the men as to the strike being of a very short duration, and the best of good feelings prevails. As a result of the strike all the three furnaces at the Ironworks are blown off, the forge and mill hands idle, while it is only a matter of time with many of the tradesmen. Business in the village is practically at a standstill. The railway facilities have been greatly curtailed. Practically no minerals are being conveyed by rail.

14th March

The miners' strike still continues. The prospect of peace by mutual concessions now seem brighter than they were last week, and locally everyone more than another seems to wish the end was with us. Business is completely dislocated, and the railway service is further curtailed this week. To their credit be it said that the local strikers are conducting themselves in exemplary fashion.

21st March

The strike drags on, and with the cold and miserable weather at present, the local workers are putting in a rather sorry time. A silver lining in the dark cloud has at last appeared with the introduction of "The Minimum Wage (Coal Mines) Bill" into Parliament on Tuesday, which it is hoped will receive the assent not only of the King, but also the owners and the miners one of these days. Locally, as well as most of the coalfields, the strikers have conducted themselves in a most praiseworthy manner.

28th March

In the present time of stress in many homes, consequent of the strike of miners, the Officers of the Salvation Army have made it their business to in some part give relief, and during the past few days the Officers and Soldiers have conducted a soup kitchen at their hall.

On Tuesday some 130 children received a hearty meal, while yesterday the number was considerably augmented.

THE MINERS STRIKE (continued)

The Officers and Soldiers have received hearty co-operation from local farmers and others, being in receipt of cart loads of potatoes, some turnips, a sheep, &c., from open-hearted sympathisers.

The fact of the children, who are in no way responsible for the strike, crying for bread appeals to all, and two public bodies in the Salvation Army and the Co-operative Society are doing their share.

It was a gay company that foregathered in the Temperance Hall on Friday evening. The Co-operative Society's invitation to all children to come to a soiree was accepted by 950 budding specimens of humanity. Such an array might easily take the breath from an ordinary person, but not so the Co-operative, who always rise to the occasion, and the children got a right good fill-up.

The North Muir is meantime a busy hive of industry. While the present conditions remain no one need want a fire to at least prepare the necessities of life, and, if the latter were as secure as the former, there would certainly be no cause for grumbling.

The part of the Muir above Bankend resembles a rabbit warren. The miners work in shifts, and the coal is put into bags. These are conveyed to the village in barrows and other conveyances lent for the occasion. The first mode of transport was by a van drawn by several youths, but primitive method is now surpassed as the new Company blossoms out.

During the day may amateur managers, prospectors, diallers, and contractors visit El Dorado, and it is reported that, if the miners don't make the minimum wage, and the Union won't make it up, the local Manager (who recently made a round of the new pits) has promised to do so!

It is said that pits have also been sunk at Auldhouseburn and Crossflatt estates.

Advertisement:—

MINERS WANTED — £5 PER HOUR

During the last strike, 18 years ago, D. B. Greenwood established the Cycle Record between Muirkirk and Douglas (20 Miles), his official time being 59 minutes 1 second. D.G.B. is now prepared to offer £5 (or value, if desired) to the party who, between now and 30th September, equals or breaks this record.

4th April

Although the figures of the ballot, according to the daily newspapers, are not of a very decided character, taken as a whole, either on one side or another, a very optimistic feeling exists here that an early resumption of work is probable, possibly within a day or two. It is worthy of note that while a very large proportion of the members of the Union exercised their right of voting for or against the strike, in some districts the majority of the members have abstained altogether from voting for or against resumption. In some districts work is already in full swing. The local figures are not to hand,

but the final result for Ayrshire is:—

For Resumption	4412
Against Resumption	4147
Majority for Resumption	265

11th APRIL**STRIKE ENDED**

As a result of the meeting of the Miners' Federation Delegates in London on Saturday, and the decision arrived thereat, the local miners decided, at a meeting held in the Temperance Hall on Saturday evening, to start work, and all the coal mines in the Parish were re-opened yesterday morning. On Tuesday afternoon a meeting of the miners (to the number of several hundreds) was held in the Temperance Hall, at which the whole meeting resolved itself into a deputation to wait upon Mr Angus, and the men in a body marched making a circular tour via Kameshill, to the works, where Mr Angus announced that the pits would be opened on Wednesday morning. After the announcement three cheers were given for the leaders, the manager, and the miners themselves. In the attack on Kameshill, no further damage was done than the frightening of the watchdog. The only part of this hero on view to the company was the end of the guardian (and not the business end) as he made a hurried departure from the scene, obviously considering discretion the better part. The miners have started en mass, and a sigh of relief has escaped from every bosom in the Parish. Strike pay has been dealt to the men weekly, and the soup kitchens, which have been inaugurated will, it is expected, be continued for some days longer. In a few weeks it is hoped matters will have assumed their normal aspect

OBITUARY

The death of Mrs Johnstone in February, 1912, at the age of 83 years was recorded. Mrs Johnstone was a true daughter of Muirkirk. She was widely known and highly respected, and for half a century she conducted a grocery establishment in Furnace Road, which was the only remaining example in the village of the old-world country store.

CURLING

Curling was a very popular sport in the village during the winter months just after the turn of the century, and in 1912 three local Clubs were mentioned—Muirkirk Curling Club (reputed to be one of the oldest in Scotland), Ironworks Club, and Greenock Water Club.

SCHOOL BOARD

Muirkirk Schoolboard purchased the estate immediately adjoining Main Street School, lately used as a model lodging house (The Hydro, perhaps?). The licence for the "Hotel" was withdrawn recently. N.B.—This building was eventually used as the School "shed" when the playground was constructed.

SEVERE STORMS

The village was subjected to two severe storms in 1912, which were reported as follows:—

3rd June

On Tuesday Muirkirk was visited by a severe thunder, rain, and hail storm. The storm was remarkable not only for its severity, but also its long duration. So far as is known there was no damage done by the fire-works, but several houses were flooded with water, as the result of the defective, drainage, etc., and through the rain and hail vegetation has suffered considerably. The rain fell in sheets for quite a time, and it is no exaggeration to say that the hailstones were as big as marbles, the ground being white. Due to the hail, doubtless the gardens have suffered severely, and in many little Edens there are to-day only shattered and angled remnants of former glory. Many trees were half stripped of their leaves, and the other half for the most part being split and torn. The River Ayr was in full spate. The storm was renewed yesterday, but not to such an alarming extent.

28th November

A violent wind and rain storm swept over Scotland on Tuesday, and Muirkirk was not exempt from its rages. Occasionally rain fell in torrents, but for the greatest part of the day the wind blew a gale. A shop window in Furnace Road, directly facing the gale, was blown in, a goodly number of chimney cans and slates were dislodged and transferred to the public road, while the trunk of a large tree in a garden at Garronhill snapped near the ground and concertined the little home of some poultry, the occupants fortunately being absent at the time. The various schoolteachers very thoughtfully combined the two sessions into one, and this not only saved the children sitting in school with damp clothing, but also saved a bad attendance in the afternoon, a consideration in these days when grants are paid by attendance and not by results.

BILLIARDS

In February, 1912, a billiards match between teams representing the two Pits at Kames resulted:

No. 1 Pit		No. 2 Pit	
James Bell	85	John Hughson	120
James Connor	120	John McDonald	96
George Park	120	Robt. McSkimming ...	90
Alex. Wilson	75	Robert McCall	120
Matt. Anderson	120	Robert Bradford	100
Hugh Samson	120	William Thomson	67
Hugh Bell	68	George Higgins	120
B. McDade	<u>115</u>	Frank McDonald	<u>120</u>
	823		803

DRAUGHTS

Mr Hugh Henderson, Muirkirk's exponents of the draughts board, and now living in America, met Alfred Jordan in the final of the American Draughts Championship and came out the winner.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1912

BIRTHS

No Local Births were advertised in 1912

DEATHS

- McCARTNEY.—At Waukmill on 23rd December, James McCartney (beloved son of James and Jessie McCartney), aged 35 years.
- ANDERSON.—Suddenly, at The Square, on 5th January, Alex. Anderson (beloved son of George and Mary Anderson), aged 11 years and six months.
- COLTHART.—At Reid's Buildings, Main Street, on 4th January, Annie Howatson (relict of John Colthart), aged 52 years.
- SERVICE.—At Glasgow on 6th February, John Service (eldest son of the late John Service), aged 36 years.
- ALEXANDER.—At Cumnock Fever Hospital on 4th February, Mary (beloved daughter of Samuel and Mary Alexander, Glashow Road), aged 3½ years.
- SMITH.—At Main Street on 15th March, Grace Smith, in her 85th year.
- STEVEN.—At 48 Springhill Terrace on 9th May, Jeanie Taylor (beloved wife of Robert Steven), aged 60 years.
- BELL.—At Vass's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 27th June, Scybella Millar (beloved wife of James Bell).
- KERR.—At Laurenceknowe, Cronberry, on 23rd November, Thomas Kerr (beloved husband of Agnes Templeton, and late Farmer of Langholm, Muirkirk).
- WEIR.—At Grasshill Row Glenbuck, on 21st November, Archibald Weir (beloved husband of Janet Harkness), in his 55th years.
- BROWN.—At Kirkgreen on 16th December, Janet Crawford Brown (daughter of Mr and Mrs Alex. Brown), aged 37 years.
- SAMSON.—At Glasgow on 21st December, James Samson (beloved husband of Agnes Stathearn), aged 39 years, of 28 Springhill.

MARRIAGES

- HOGARTH—CRINGAN.—At Kilmarnock on 14th June, Peter Clark Hogarth (Glasgow) to Mary Cringan.

AN ECHO OF THE PAST

The curtain has finally been rung down on the grim tragedy which was enacted on a Glenbuck byway in the spring of 1908, by the suicide of the culprit in Perth Prison on 13th November. Thomas Bone, Jr., was sentenced to death in the High Court held in Glasgow for the murder of his wife at Glenbuck, but a respite was granted on the eve of the day set aside for his execution. Bone was undergoing confinement during His Majesty's pleasure in Perth Penitentiary, and, it appears, had been giving considerable trouble to the wardens for some time, latterly being regarded as a dangerous lunatic. Although closely watched, he took advantage of the 15 minutes' absence of the warder, and committed suicide in his quarters by hanging himself with a bedsheet, which he tied tightly round his neck and attached to a peg in the wall. It is understood that the body was still warm when the warder returned, but life was extinct.

CHAPTER SIX

(1913)

SNOWSTORM

In common with most other places in Scotland, Muirkirk was on Saturday last (12th January) visited by a very severe snowstorm. In common it was, and yet uncommon, for, owing doubtless to its height above sea level, the storm was more severely felt here than in many places. The blizzard continued during the whole day, so much so that communications with other districts by road and rail was interrupted, snow lying in several places to a depth of several feet, and wreaths of snow of some four feet high being quite common in Main Street. A wreath opposite the brickwork proved too great an obstacle for the 3.40 p.m. train, and the train and its passengers were held up at Muirkirk Station till nearly midnight, before a snowplough cut an opening. Naturally, on Sunday, the streets were well nigh impassible.

CO-OPERATIVE

Muirkirk Co-operative Society paid a Dividend of 3s 3d per £1 on purchases.

HARDY SHEEP

(Feb. 13th)

It will be news for a few to learn that only last week two sheep were dug out of the snow in this Parish after having been covered up for nearly a month. On Dipple Farm one was released after 23 days' confinement, and another on Upper Wellwood after 27 days incarceration. In the former case a drain helped to confine the prisoner, but in the latter instance the sheep, by almost continued movement, shaped a kind of cave as hard as ice. Neither animal seemed much the worse of its escapade.

NEW HEADMASTER

In March, Mr James Phillips, M.A., was appointed Headmaster at Furnace Road School. There were 72 applicants for the post. Mr Phillips was born in Maryhill.

FATAL ACCIDENT

On 14th April a fatal accident befell David McSkimming, a young man about 22 years of age, and residing with his widowed mother in Douglas Place. Deceased was employed on Kames Pithead. It is thought he had been jammed between two waggons, and was so severely injured internally that he died at his home some six hours later.

EXPLOSION

On 10th March the effects of the disastrous explosion at Ardeer, over thirty miles away, were distinctly felt here, and, as well as an ominous rumble, doors and windows were rattled. Considerable anxiety, if not alarm, was manifest by most residents as to the cause, and within an hour that was known

REGISTRAR'S RETURN

	1912	1911	Decrease
Births	133	148	15
Marriages	182	28	10
Deaths	51	69	18

Births—Lowest recorded since 1872 when it was 117.

Marriages—Lowest recorded since 1887 when it was 12

Deaths—Lowest recorded since 1862 when it was 51

MUIRKIRK PARISH—1913

<i>Farms occupied by Resident Farmers:</i>	<i>Farms without Resident Farmers:</i>
Crossflatt	Darnhunch
Kames	Ashieburn
Upper Wellwood	Springhill
Middle Wellwood	Laigh Dalfram
Nether Wellwood	Upper Whirehaugh
Dalfram	Greenockdyke
Greenockmains	Lower Hall
Townhead	Bankend
Garpel	Mansfield
Nether White haugh	Middlefield
Netherwood	Waterhead
Aitkencleugh	Linburn
Burnfoot	Blackside
Greenside	Dippol
Tardoes	Priesthill
Lighshaw	Birkcleugh
Airdsgreen	Grasshill
West Glenbuck	Cairneybottom
Glenbuck	Sunnyside
Spireslack	

NEW DRILL HALL

Work in connection with the erection of the new Drill Hall (latterly occupied by Muirtex) was commenced in June.

THE DROUGHT

That summer there was a severe drought in the district, and water restrictions were brought into force, lasting several weeks.

IN THE AIR

In August, Muirkirk residents got their first view of an aeroplane. The plane was piloted by Captain Dawse, who was accompanied by a Mechanic on a Maurice Farman bi-plane belonging to No. 2 Squadron Royal Flying Corps. The aircraft left Montrose at 6 a.m., alighted at Dysart (Fife) through fog, landed again at Lanark for petrol, and arrived at Stranraer at 2 o'clock.

THE FORGE MILL

The passing of the Forge & Mill in Muirkirk has already been referred to in rhyme in these columns, and the last act in the drama took place last Friday (12th December) when the machinery, tools, and buildings were in the hands of the auctioneers. The mill was amongst the first and was the oldest working in Scotland. The hammer itself went, under the hammer of the Auctioneer, at £94.

THUNDERSTORM AT GLENBUCK

Glenbuck was visited by a very severe thunderstorm on Tuesday afternoon (24th June). A torrential rain, accompanied by hailstones of solid ice and as large as marbles, soon made the burns overflow their banks, especially the one that flows past the school. The culvert was unable to take away the water, which swept down the Store Brae, tearing up the road, the debris forming a bank at the foot of the brae. The water then made its way towards Old School Row, Office Row, and Jubilee Row, and some of the houses there were flooded. This happened just as the miners were arriving home from work, and they at once led the water into the Public Park. At several parts the road was washed away to a depth of three feet. The children coming out of the school had to be carried over the water, which was fully eighteen inches deep. On the other side of the village the road was also flooded, but not to such an extent. Several landslides occurred on the Douglas Road and on the Hareshaw Hill. On a part of the road at Parishholm, near the Dam, about thirty yards of the fence was forced into the middle of the road by a slip on which there were some young trees. Considerable devastation has also been done by flooding in the approach to Glenbuck House, while on Glenbuck Estate, as well as the adjoining farm of Monkshead, all the sheep bridges have been washed away. With the latter farm vehicle traffic has been completely suspended, even parties on foot having to take to the fields. The Douglas Water overflowed its banks and ran into Glespin Pit. Ten men were entombed thereby, but fortunately all were got out in safety after some trying experiences. It was the most severe storm that has visited the district within living memory. Muirkirk completely escaped the storm.

FOOTBALL

For the first time in their history, Muirkirk Athletic were into the quarter-finals of the Scottish Junior Cup—no other local Junior team has reached this stage in the competition. Athletic were drawn to Inverkeithing and drew 1—1, the team being:—Rae; Dysart, Gebbie Ramsay, Hogg, Crawford; Rennie, McNair, Raeside,

Findlay, Barrie. In the replay at Ladeside Park on 18th February, the game also ended in a 1—1 draw.

The second replay took place at Firhill Park, Glasgow, when Muirkirk went down rather unluckily. Nevertheless, it had been a great run by the Muirkirk team. Interesting to note that Inverkeithing went on to beat Dunnipace 1—0 in the final.

However, the Athletic were successful that year in bringing silverware to the village, when in September at Cumnock they beat Auchinleck Talbot in the final of the Cumnock Cup by three goals to one. The Athletic team was:—A. Park; Dysart, Crawford; Findlay, Hogg, Anderson; R. Crosbie, J. Crosbie, J. Park, Laidlaw, Wallace.

AT THE PICTURES

The two big shows at Muirkirk Picture house were:—"East Lynne" and "Les Miserables."

Mr JIMMY STRICKLAND

Manager, Grasshill Pit, Glenbuck

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1913

BIRTHS

POLLOCK.—At 11a Glaisnock Street, Cumnock on 9th March, to Mrs John Pollock, of Muirkirk, a son.

MARRIAGES

SEYMOUR—RENNIE.—At Smallburn on 28th February, James Seymour to Jean Rennie.

McLEOD-YOUNG.—At Masonic Hall on 20th June, William McLeod to Nan Young.

TAYLOR—VALLANCE.—At Glasgow on 17th September, Thomas Taylor to Margaret Samson (daughter of William Vallance, Butcher).

MORTON—WEIR.—At Heathfield Muirkirk, on 1st October, John Morton to Jennie Brown Weir (youngest daughter of J. S. Weir, Heathfield, Muirkirk).

HIGGINS—STEVENS.—At St. Thomas' Church on 31st October, George Higgins to Susan Steven.

DEATHS

FLOYD.—At Wee Torhill on 6th January, Janet Montgomery Campbell (widow of Charles Floyd, in her 81st year).

BELL.—Accidentally killed in Kames Pit on 10th January, Andrew Bell (beloved son of Annie Gorlay), aged 25 years, of Bridge Street.

HOLDEN.—Suddenly at Glasgow on 10th January, Nancy (beloved daughter of David and Helen Holden, Kames Cottages, Muirkirk, aged 23 years.

BLYTH.—At Ronaldo Place on 20th January, John Walker (youngest son of John and Isabella Blyth), in his 4th year.

GIBSON.—At Ayr Hospital on 10th February, Agenes Gibson (beloved sister of James Gibson Torbett), aged 25 years.

YOUNG.—At 20 Railway Terrace on 12th February, James (youngest son of Archibald and Maggie Young), aged 13 months.

BARR.—At Manse Place, Glenbuck, on 1st April, Elizabeth Barr (beloved daughter of James and Mary Barr), aged 14 years.

GIRDWOOD.—At Park Cottage on 1st April, William Girdwood (beloved husband of Elizabeth Goidwood).

LAWSON.—At Edinburgh on 10th May, Jane Auld (beloved wife of James Lawson, Main Street, Muirkirk), aged 69 years.

MUIR.—At Station Road, Muirkirk, on 10th May, Duncan Muir (beloved husband of Martha Muir), aged 60 years.

LANCELLOS.—At Albert Place on 30th May, Edwin Lancellos, aged 15 years.

McKINLAY.—At Kirkgreen on 23rd June, James McKinlay (beloved husband of Margaret Currie).

PATRICK.—At St. Nicholas, Muirkirk, on 30th June, William Patrick, aged 66 years.

McKINLAY.—At Kirkgreen, Muirkirk, on 11th July, Margaret Currie, aged 61 years, relict of James McKinlay.

BROWN.—At Madeleine Place on 31st August, William Brown, aged 23 years.

McCORMICK.—At Smallburn on 4th September, Barbara Stewart (beloved wife of William McCormick), aged 57

MURDOCH.—At Main Street on 29th October, Bessie Kidd Dundas (beloved wife of James Murdoch), aged 69 years.

CAMPBELL.—At Edinburgh on 19th October, Lizzie Campbell (beloved daughter of James and Jessie Campbell, Linkieburn House), aged 24 years.

GOURLAY.—At Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 7th November, Helen Davidson (widow of David Gourlay), aged 82

BROWN.—At Garronhill on 8th December, Alexander Brown (beloved husband of Mary Brown), aged 68 years.



TOM BONE Glenbuck's Champion Quoiner



Glenbuck House

CHAPTER SEVEN

(1914)

THE GREAT WORLD WAR

The big story of 1914 was, of course, the outbreak of World War I., and the people of Muirkirk were not to be found wanting in their efforts to help the war effort. A local Parish Relief Fund Committee was set up, and soon Muirkirk's contribution, both financially and materially, was considerable, with functions of all kinds being held regularly to augment the Fund, as well as collections for blankets, crockery, etc., etc. In November, Wellwood House was made available as a convalescent home, and twelve wounded Belgium soldiers were the first residents. Nurse Cameron was in constant attendance, and the Medical Attendant was Doctor Carruthers. In December six families of Belgium refugees were accommodated at the Southside. Hardly a week went past without the youth of the village providing a volunteer for the armed services. By the end of the year, 194 Muirkirk men had enlisted, plus 21 from Glenbuck.

FOOTBALL

In the final of the Ayrshire Cup competition, Muirkirk Athletic lost to Irvine Meadow by 2—1 at Rugby Park, Kilmarnock. Athletic team:—A. Park; Hynd, Gebbie; Crosbie Hogg, Crawford; Morton, Rennie, J. Park, Newbigging, Wallace.

Athletic and Glenbuck Cherries met in the final of the Cumnock & District Cup at Cumnock on 30th May. The game ended in a goal-less draw. The replay took place the following Wednesday, when the Cherrypickers won by 1—0. The Teams were:—*Cherries*—Docherty; Jas. Wallace, Bain; R. Barr, John Wallace James Davidson; W. Barr, Whitefield, Menzies, John Davidson, Andrew Davidson. *Athletic*—A. Park; Hynd, Crawford; Crosbie, Hogg, Woodburn; Rennie Morton, J. Park, Hamilton, Wallace.

For the third time in eight days, Athletic met the Cherries in yet another final—the Mauchline Cup—which was played at Station Park, Cumnock, and ended in a goal-less draw. The replay was held over until the following season.

In September the two great rivals met at Cumnock in the postponed Mauchline Cup replay, and after a great game the Athletic won by 2—1. And so for the first time in the history of the village a Junior team had brought back some silverware. Teams:—*Cherries*—Docherty; J. Wallace, Bone; Bain, Barr, J. Davidson; A. Davidson, Weir, Menzies, Anderson, R. Wallace. *Athletic*—A. Park; Standing, Grant; Crawford, Hogg, Fleming; Nish, Ward, J. Park, Davidson, McCreadie. Weir scored for the Cherries, while McCreadie and A. Park got the all important goals for the Athletic.

CO-OP. DIVIDEND—3/3 per £

SHOW OF PIT PONIES

The result of the show of pit horses at Kames Colliery resulted:—

No. 1 Pit—Best Groomed Horse

1st (18 points)	"Buller"	Driver D. Mitchell
2nd (13 points)	"Jock"	Driver P. Clifford
	"Star"	Driver J. Mitchell
	"Prince"	Driver H. Connor
3rd (11 points)	"Danny"	Driver D. Hendry

No. 2 Pit—

Best Groomed Horse and Best Kept Harness

1st (27 points)	"Paddy"	Driver R. Hill
2nd (24 points)	"Soldier"	Driver A. Walker
	"Captain"	Driver G. McDonald

LAPRAIK MEMORIAL CAIRN

On Saturday afternoon last (18th July, 1914), several of the members of the Lapraik Burns Club journeyed per brake to Dalfram, the object being to visit the monumental cairn lately erected to the memory of the Poet, John Lapraik, and to formerly inaugurate the same. The President of the Club, Mr Archibald Fairbairn, gave an admirable address, in which he summarised the work done during the past two years, which had resulted in the formation of the cairn, and incidentally remarked that both it and the ground on which it was built was now the property of the Club. In a sense it was a classic soil, for it was certain that on a little hill nearby stood the dwelling place of Lapraik. Here, amongst other stanes, lime, and debris were found Lapraik's hearthstone and other things which only belong to a dwelling house. Mr Fairbairn then explained all about the building of the cairn, which is over 11 feet in height, and built chiefly from the stones derived from the site of Lapraik's house. Amongst those of the members who had taken a practical interest in the building, he could easily single out Mr Thomas Weir, who was responsible for the plans adopted to keep all safe in the jar built into the cairn, and he expected Mr Weir's plan would be effectual. In the jar there were the following:—

- (1) History of the Lapraik Burns Club, No. 56 of the Burns Federation, by the Secretary, Mr Hugh Bell.
- (2) Two "Muirkirk Advertisers."
- (3) Abstracts of the Parish Council and School Board for 13-14.
- (4) Two of the Club's Greetings, 1904, 1914.
- (5) A piece of wood from the Auld Brig of Ayr, from James Clark, Esq., Crossflatt.
- (6) "Muirkirk in Bygone Days," by J. G. A. Baird, Esq., of Wellwood.

Mr Thomas Weir, the father and poet laureate of the Club, expressed great pleasure in being there, where, 129 years ago, honest-hearted auld Lapraik had his home. Mr Weir repeated all the epistles betwixt Burns and Lapraik in his own surpassing style, and referred to the meeting of the poets, probably in 1785. Our poet was the oldest in the list of the contemporaries of Burns, and was much loved by the National Poet for his sterling qualities.

He was indeed Burns' model in "A Man's a Man for a' That."

Mr C. Bell traced in pretty full detail the history of the Lapraik family since La Privic (according to tradition a Frenchman who had come in Queen Mary's retinue to Leith and Edinburgh in 1561), bought Dalfram. His great grandson, the "sclandered man," is mentioned in "Muirkirk in Bygone Days" as living in 1661. His son again and the father of the poet is also mentioned there in connection with the Session's minutes of 1704. The poet was born in 1727, and died in 1807. Mr Bell, in connection with the poet and Burns, mentioned about the Post Office, the mail route at the time to Douglas Mill, Lapraik's son who was a farmer in Darnhunch, and another son of the poet, "Cooper Lapraik," who was seized by the British Press Gang at Troon and was long a prisoner in France. The farmer in Darnhunch had a son whom many still remembered. He was known to the older generation as "Baker Lapraik," and the latter had also a son, who may yet be alive. If so, he is the great grandson of the poet. Certain it is descendants in the female line still reside in Ayrshire.

Mr Pringle briefly described the formation of the Lapraik Burns Club 21 years ago, and ran its history up to date.

At a convenient height on the cairn is fixed a brass tablet upon which the following is neatly inscribed inside a neat border, the two top pieces being each formed by a Scots thistle, while the plough occupies a prominent position at the bottom of the inscription:—"This cairn was erected A.D. 1914, by the Lapraik Burns Club of Muirkirk, to mark the spot where stood the house of "Bauld Lapraik" the friend of the Poet, Robert Burns.

But if the beast and branks be spar'd
Till kye gaun without the herd,
An' a' the vittal in the yard,
An' theekit right,
I mean your ingle-side to guard
Ae winter night."



REPLENISHING THE EARTH

A very rare occurrence took place in Muirkirk on Wednesday (23rd September) of last week, when Mrs James G. Torbett, Smallburn, gave birth to triplets—all boys. Dr Carruthers was in attendance, and whether by way of encouragement or to show his appreciation of the honour of being a participator in such an unique event, the worthy doctor "hanselled" each youngster by putting half-a-sovereign in his hand. Mrs Torbett at least comes off prolific stock, her mother having given birth to thirteen sons and daughters, including twins. Unfortunately the triplets died on the Wednesday afternoon, and all concerned were deeply grieved at their early demise.

BELGIUM WARRIORS AT WELLWOOD

At the beginning of the War the use of Wellwood House was offered to the War Office authorities as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers, and the offer having been accepted, nine wounded men arrived at Muirkirk Station from Stobhill Hospital on Thursday evening last (29th October), and were recorded a great reception by about half the populace, the town being practically empty. On Thursday evening the men were met by Mr Baird, and on Tuesday evening by Mr Grant, butler. Some of the men are suffering from wounds, but lumbago and bronchitis as a result of lying in the trenches, and shattered nerves, are worse ailments. Their ages range from 21 to 24, and all were in the fighting line in Belgium round Termonde, Louvain, etc. Some have had great experiences. Of the twelve at Wellwood, eleven are Belgians and one a Glasgow Yeoman. All the Belgians except one are infantrymen, the one exception had three horses shot from under him. Nine of the eleven speak French, the other two Flemish. Some of the Belgians are miners, one is a pipe-maker, and three are other tradesmen. All are completely ignorant of the fate or whereabouts of their relatives. One man left his wife and two children in Louvain, and is naturally very anxious to know about them. As may be imagined, the soldiers are very comfortable in Wellwood House. Nurse Cameron, lately District Nurse here, is in constant attendance, while Dr Carruthers is the medical attendant. Wellwood House being recognised as a convalescent home under the War Office, the men are under strict rules, and there are certain boundaries beyond which they are not allowed to go, villages and public houses being prohibited, and the men are not allowed any stimulants. In a word, they are here to get well, and in this we wish them Godspeed.

GENT.'S HAIRCUTTING PRICES

Shaving	2d
Haircutting	4d
Beard Trimming	3d
Singeing	4d
Shampoo	d
Boys' Haircutting	2d
Razor Set—	4d

REFUGEES AT SOUTHSIDE

Six families of Belgium refugees are now comfortably accommodated on the Southside. Arriving at the Station they were met by Mr Young, Dr Carruthers, Mr Phillips, and several of the local Ministers, and escorted to the Ironworks Institute, where they enjoyed a substantial dinner, being later on conducted to their respective temporary homes in Kames Row. There are five husbands and wives with their families. There are thirty persons in all, and these occupy six houses. All are Roman Catholics. Seven are now working every day. Several of the children are attending the local school. Flemish is evidently their natural tongue, while their knowledge of English is very scanty, they seem to get on not so badly with the Scottish language.

They were well represented at the lecture on "Belgium" held in the Ironworks Institute on Monday evening, and while the lecture would be pretty much unintelligible to them, the pictures seemed to appeal to their hearts, and although unable to express their feelings in words, several did so in tears, probably caused by the sight and thought of ruined homes. The scene was rather pathetic, and brought the war and its horrors just a little nearer or own doors. It is to be hoped these strangers will be made as comfortable as possible while they may be "driven from home" for the present, but that, with a speedy end of the war and the deliverance from the oppressors, much success will be theirs when they return to their own country.

WITH THE MINERS

The Kames No. 1 Pit Rescue Brigade in 1914 consisted of Hugh Bell, Robert Gordon, William Thomson, John McCallum, and Henry Hastings.

LOCAL STATISTICS (1913)

Births	112
(Lowest since 1857)	
Marriages	38
Deaths	53

SCHOOLBOARD

The election for seven places on the Muirkirk School Board resulted:—

Young, John, Sen	1124
Henderson, Rev. John	787
Stitt, Mr David	771
Wilson, Mrs	635
Greenshields, Rev. James	628
Dundas, Rev. John	591
McCall, Mr John	477

Out of an electorate of 1022, 776 polled.

EMPIRE BAR

In April, Mr James Myron, Motherwell, was granted a new licence for the Empire Bar.

DRAUGHTS

Muirkirk exile, John Henderson, won the Western Pennsylvania Draughts tournament in the U.S.A.

SCHOOL ROLL

Main Street Schoo	1248
Furnace Road School	546
Glenbuck Public School	157
Wellwood School	24

WELLWOOD HOUSE, MUIRKIRK



LOCAL STATISTICS —**1914****BIRTHS**

PHILIPS.—At Auldhouseburn on 23rd January, the wife of James Philips, a daughter.

YOUNG.—At Parsonstown House, Muirkirk, on 16th April, to Mr and Mrs Robert Young, a son.

MARRIAGES

JAMES SYMINGTON to MARGARET STEVEN on 31st December.

HUGH SAMSON to CRAWFORD GILFILLAN on 24th June.

WILLIAM DUNBAR to MARGARET YOUNG on 6th November.

THOMAS RAE to JEANNIE McCLYMONT at Kirkburnhead on 30th December.

DEATHS

ANDERSON.—At Main Street on 1st January, Elizabeth (Thomson) Anderson, aged 75 years.

WALLACE.—At Blyth's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 27th March, Alexander Brown Wallace, aged 1 year and 7 months.

GIBSON.—At Blyth's Buildings, Main Street, on 1st March, Peggy Burnside Gibson, aged 11 months.

HENDRY.—At Main Street on 5th March, John Hendry, aged 67 years.

MILLAR.—At Main Street on 8th March, Andrew Millar, aged 71 years.

TAYLOR.—At Cunningham House on 13th March, Elizabeth Martin Wilson Taylor.

SAMSON.—At Old Terrace, on 17th March, Annie Wilson Samson.

EDMONSTON.—At Mossend Place on 27th May, wee James Edmonston, aged 15 months.

ANDERSON.—At Smallburn on 19th June, Jane Samson Anderson, aged 69 years.

LAWSON.—At Main Street on 20th June, Margaret Bell Lawson, aged 38 years.

ROSS.—At Main Street on 5th July, David Ross, aged 28 years.

CRINGAN.—At Main Street on 19th July, Robert Cringan, aged 56 years.

SWANN.—At Wellwood Street, on 22nd July, William Swann, aged 89 years.

LOVE.—At Torhill on 6th September, Hugh Love, aged 66.

BLYTH.—At Ronaldo Place, on 27th September, John Blyth, aged 42 years.

WHITE.—At Clark Place, on 18th September, Agnes White.

MURRAY.—At Glasgow on 4th October, Henry W. Murray, aged 67 years.

MURRAY.—At Springhill Terrace, on 18th October, Janet Murray, aged 12 years.

WILSON.—At Glasgow Road on 28th October, Jane (Murray) Wilson, aged 44 years.

McCULLOCH.—At Fleming Cottage, on 20th October, James McCulloch, aged 70 years.

MACKIN.—At Co-op. Buildings, Muirkirk, on 6th December, Sarah (Higgins) Mackin, aged 30 years.

BELL.—At Main Street on 4th December, Mrs Nell, aged 76 years.

GARDEN COMPETITION

To encourage his tenants in Glenbuck to take a greater interest in gardening, Mr Howatson offered prizes for the best flower plots. The winners were:—

1st—Constable Forsyth, Rowanbank.

2nd—Mr John Barr, 9 Jubilee Row.

3rd—Miss Park, 10 Jubilee Row.

4th—Mr Robert Murdoch, 6 Jubilee Row.

PARISH CHURCH

On 5th July, Muirkirk Parish Church celebrated its centenary with a special service. The present edifice had been opened for worship in June, 1814.

KAMES MISSION CHURCH

In January, 1914, Rev. William N. Neill was appointed Minister to replace Rev. P. M. Beaton, who had been transferred to Strathaven.

Mrs FETTES, Schoolteacher

CHAPTER EIGHT

(1915)

THE GREAT WAR

The First World War was still casting a dark shadow over the community as a whole, and hardly a week seemed to pass without some bad news coming from the front. Muirkirk's young men paid a heavy price in lives in the fight against the Germans in France and Belgium. The War Relief effort in Muirkirk was spearheaded by the Rev. John Henderson, Minister at Muirkirk Parish Church, and some sterling work was done by the Church Woman's Guild, with other local organisations doing their bit, too. The money raised was averaging over £100 per month, and it was thought that the effort was unequalled for a comparable community in the country.

As well as money, knitted garments, blankets, etc., etc., were also regularly sent to the front from Muirkirk.

A Roll of Honour published in January showed that 254 young men with a Parish connection had enlisted for H.M. Forces—a truly amazing total for a village the size of Muirkirk.

FOOTBALL

For the second time in three years Muirkirk Athletic reached the sixth round (quarter-finals) of the Scottish Junior Cup competition, but lost to Glasgow Parkhead 2—0. Team—Hamilton; Standing, Grant; Crawford, Hogg, Fleming; Rennie, Ward, Park, Davidson, Nish.

The Athletic again met Glenbuck Cherrypickers in the final of the Ayrshire Cup at Rugby Park, Kilmarnock. The game ended in a 2—2 draw, but in the replay Athletic won 1—0. *Athletic*—A. Park; Standing, Grant; Crawford, Hogg, Fleming; Rennie, Ward, Davidson, Newbigging, Nish. *Cherries*—R. Barr; J. Wallace, Bain; Weir, W. Barr, James Davidson, A. Davidson, W. Wallace, Menzies, Anderson, R. Wallace. Nish got the all-important goal for the Athletic.

It had been a very successful season for the Athletic. They had played 29 games, won 19, drawn 5, and lost only five. Their goal tally was 55 for the loss of 23.

In August the Athletic Committee decided not to play in the 1915-16 season, much to the disappointment of local enthusiasts. The decision taken was a direct result of the War, which had caused fallen gates, and more important, a shortage of players.

CO-OPERATIVE PURCHASE

The property at the foot of Glasgow Road and Main Street (next to the Empire Bar), which belonged to the late Miss Begg (part of which was the Old Smithy), was sold by public auction. It was bought by Muirkirk Co-operative Society for £225. Readers will remember it was the new offices, drapery department, bakery shop, etc.

SOME OLD LOCAL LEGENDS

By Thomas Floyd,

Author of "Cairntable Rhymes"

As far as I can remember there was a legend current among the "Auld Folks" in the village that, when the road between Muirkirk and Sanquhar was completed the stagecoach made one trip and then abandoned it.

However, from an Edinburgh Almanac, dated 1829, I find there was a regular posting service between Glasgow and Carlisle via Muirkirk and Sanquhar. Post-horses were stationed at Strathaven, Sanquhar, Dumfries, and Gretna Green. There was also a posting service between Edinburgh and Ayr via Carnwath and Muirkirk. Post-horses were stationed at Carnwath, Douglas-mill, and Old Cumnock.

There was also a carrier service between Edinburgh and Muirkirk. Carriers left Edinburgh for Muirkirk every Tuesday, and left Muirkirk for Edinburgh on the same day. Their headquarters were at Wilson's, 116 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, and at The Inn, Muirkirk. Muirkirk at that time boasted a Post Office, A. McCaul being the Postmaster. Letters were also despatched from Edinburgh to Muirkirk on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Letters were also despatched from Muirkirk to Edinburgh on the same days. Letters were delivered in the village on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—one delivery each day. Glenbuck is not mentioned. We have made great strides since then, with our trains, motors, and numerous postmen. Were our grandfathers to come back from the Great Beyond it would be difficult to make them believe this was the same world they departed from less than a century ago.

Another legend that went the rounds was that during the "killing times" in Scotland a trooper was pursuing a Covenanter round the foot of Cairntable when the trooper plunged into the Boiling Well, and was drowned, horse and all. Now, anyone visiting the well at the present time would be at a loss to understand how such a legend originated, because this once curious and interesting natural phenomenon has been allowed to dwindle to the dimensions of an ordinary hill drain but fifty years ago it was a round deep pool, a dozen feet or more in diameter. The whole of its bed was covered with large aboli-tions of churning sand and water, giving it the appearance of a boiling cauldron. Hence its name. At that time it was a favourite resort of the villagers. On the Sunday afternoons large numbers visited it to pree its waters and enjoy the glorious view of the hill and moor. The auld folk sat on its heathy margin and "ca'd the crack," while the young folks commandeered a fir pole from the nearest sheep brig and pushed it down through the churning sand and then released it, when the pressure of the water sent it bounding into the air. "Tossing the caber," they called it. Now, if the well was of such dimensions fifty years ago, it would probably be larger and deeper in the 17th century. So there may be some truth in the legend after all.

A popular legend was that a keg of whisky was buried somewhere in the vicinity of the Sanquhar Brig. According to the legend it was buried there by a smuggler who intended

to remove it when an opportunity occurred. The opportunity never came. The smuggler was caught and transported to Botany Bay, and the whisky still reposes in its peaty bed, as it was often searched for, but never found. Some day it may be found, and, from its age, should be worth sampling.

Another was that the first sod of the Wellwood Pit was cut on the day the Battle of Waterloo was fought. It would be interesting if this legend could be authenticated. In our grandfathers' time this pit was known as the Engine Pit, in our fathers' time as the Big Pit. It now enjoys the proud title of Wellwood No. 1.

It is told that a man once lived in the village who was of such gigantic proportions that he could push his hand into a sack of meal and lift a whole peck on his open palm (German liars please note). Curiously enough his name was Little.

The village had also its strong man (a farmer) who was endowed with such prodigious strength that one day, while carting turnips from the field, the horse and cart slipped into a bog hole. He immediately "buckled tae," and succeeded in lifting both horse and cart on to terra firma. On another occasion, while carting coal from Glenbuck, he lifted such an immense piece of coal that its weight caused his feet to sink down into the hard turnpike road. He was also impervious to the sensation of pain. One day, while ploughing, one of the horses trampled on his foot and broke the bone of his instep. Nothing daunted, he took off his boot, put on an old slipper, and finished his day's ploughing, with the broken foot going flip-flap all the time. Another day while thrashing in the barn a corn pickle flew into his eye. He never knew it was there till it began to grow and sprout. This remarkable worthy was known to this day as M-h-se.

A village worthy had such a long tongue that he could wipe his nose, take a mote out of his eye, and tickle his ears with it. He was known to this day as the Old Gardener.

Another worthy had such a long nose that while standing at Kay's corner he had to press it to the side to allow people to get past. He was known to this day as Ringan Tinnock.

A legend that puzzled my young brain was that every time the "Leeshaw Stane" heard the Kirk bell ringing it walked done to the River Ayr and took a drink (Do you see the point?).

No doubt some of the above stories look rather tall, but I have jotted them down exactly as I heard them related by certain auld residents of fifty years ago.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES

In May, the following were enlisted as Special Constables:

William Vallance	John McCulloch
John Young	John Cairney
George Taylor	John Kerr
Alex. Vallance	John H. Preston
Robert K. Wilson	David B. Greenwood
Walter Weir	

AT THE CINEMA

Charlie Chaplin in "Tillie's Punctured Romance."

NEW WORKS MANAGER

With the departure of Mr John Angus, after a stay of some 45 years, a successor has been appointed in Mr Dugald Baird, who has occupied a similar position at Lugar for some time, and Mr Baird and his family took up residence at Kameshill last week-end. In recounting some reminiscences before he left, Mr Angus touched on the history of the Parish before and after his advent. It may be sufficient meantime to say that after his arrival in Muirkirk, Mr Angus changed the motive power of the forge and mill from water to steam, this in 1871—the year after he came. In 1879 the ammonia works started. In 1870 the only pits were Wellwood, Crossflatt, and Maidenbank, and Stottinleuch Mine. Since then eight pits have been sunk, also Lightshaw Mine—Two at Kames, two at Glenbuck, and four at Lightshaw. The population of the Parish in 1870 was 3253, and the valuation was £14866 in 1901 the population was 5670, and the valuation £30,400. Since then, however, a backward step has been taken, and in 1914-15 the population is estimated at 4730, and the valuation £27,000, while the forge and mill disappeared. Some years ago electric lights were introduced at the Works, as also at Glenbuck and Kames Pits.

RETIRAL

Rev. John Dundas retired after 37 years as Minister of Chalmers U.F. Church in Main Street (where stood the Regal Cinema on ground now the car park next to the Co-operative.

NEW JANITOR

Mr Alex. McLean was appointed Janitor at the Ironworks Institute. There were 280 applications for the vacancy.

IRONWORKS FLOWER SHOW

The Ironworks Horticultural Society held their annual exhibition in September, and we note—

Thomas Findlay won 9 1sts, 3 2nds, and 2 3rds with Vegetables.

Robert Wilson won 29 1sts and 1 3rd in the Flower Section. The prize for the Best Vegetable Garden went to Wm. Dunsmuir.

Mr JOHN COLTHART



LOCAL STATISTICS—1915**BIRTHS**

- SEYMOUR.—At Inglewood on 25th January, to Lieut. and Mrs C. Seymour, a son.
- BONE.—At Smallburn on 17th June, wife of John Bone, a daughter.
- HENDERSON.—At the Manse on 30th September, the wife of the Rev. John Henderson, a daughter.
- YOUNG.—At Parsonstown House on 23rd December, to Mr and Mrs Robert Young, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

- JAMES GREENSHIELDS to ANNE ANDERSON MURPHY on 29th January.
- ROBERT CLARK to MARION (minnie) GEMMELL on 10th June.
- JOHN SMITH McGILL to MARY FINDLAY on 1st October

DEATHS

- YOUNG.—At Parsonstown House on 5th January, wee Jim, aged 2 years 5 months (son of Robert and Mary Young).
- WILLIAMSON.—At 18 Midhouse Terrace on 18th January, Elizabeth Murdoch, aged 41 years.
- HASTIE.—At Rowanbank, Glenbuck, on 14th January, Annie Graham.
- LOCKHART.—On 27th February, James Lockhart, aged 58 years (of 2 White's Row).
- STEIN.—At 29 New Terrace, on 26th February, Jeannie Stein, aged 17 years.
- McINTYRE.—At Garronhill, on 22nd March, Donald McIntyre.
- LAW.—At Wellwood Street on 30th March, James (infant son of of James and Christine Law).
- McKENZIE.—At Main Street on 18th March, James McKenzie, aged 6 years.
- PARK.—At Smallburn on 20th March, Sarah Gibson, aged 65
- LOGGIE.—At Helena Cottage on 9th May, James Loggie, aged 71 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At Kirkgreen on 12th June, William Dempster, aged 59 years.
- ADAMSON.—Killed in action in Belgium, Hugh Murdoch Anderson, aged 23 years.
- McLACHLAN.—Killed in action at Flanders on 16th June, James McLACHLAN.
- TAYLOR.—At Main Street on 2nd July, George Taylor, aged 63 years.
- KERR.—Killed in action on 9th July, James Kerr (Grocer's son).
- THOMSON.—At Bankend on 23rd July, Robert Thomson, aged 3 years.
- BROWN.—Accidentally killed at Thankerton Colliery on 28th July, Alexander Brown, aged 60 years.
- HOGG.—Killed in action on 12th July, James Hogg, of 50 New Terrace.
- COWAN.—At 28 New Terrace on 8th August, Robina Armstrong.
- HENDRY.—Killed in action on 15th July, William Hendry, aged 29 years.
- HILL.—At Springhill Terrace on 9th August, John Hill, aged 53 years.
- CALDOW.—At Morton Place on 16th August, David Caldow, aged 72 years.
- COLLOW.—As a result of wounds received in action, Hugh Collow, aged 22 years.
- STRATHEARN.—At 28 Springhill Terrace on 11th September, Hugh Strathearn, aged 67 years.
- MURDOCH.—At Clark Place on 24th September, John Murdoch, aged 34 years.
- MURDOCH.—At The Square on 13th September, Andrew Murdoch, aged 74 years.
- FERGUSON.—Killed in action in France on 25th September, Dan Ferguson, aged 20 years.
- HARVEY.—At Mid Wellwood on 23rd October, John Harvey, aged 86 years.
- McINTOSH.—As a result of wounds received in action, David McIntosh, aged 20 years (of 28 Kames Row).
- CRINGAN.—Accidentally killed in Kennox Colliery on 5th November, Robert Cringan, aged 14 years.
- GIBNEY.—Killed in action in France on 25th September, Hugh Gibney.
- LAWSON.—Killed on active service in Dardanelles, James Lawson, aged 20 years (of Lightshaw).
- LINDSAY.—At 19 Midhouse Terrace on 25th December, Margaret Mills, aged 73 years.
- NEILSON.—At Burnside on 5th December, Annie Domigan aged 52 years.

The peacock spreads his tail and squawks;
 Pigs squeal, and robins sing;
 And even serpents know enough
 To hiss before they sting.
 Yet man, the greatest masterpiece
 That nature could devise,
 Will often stop and hesitate
 Before he'll advertise

CHAPTER NINE

(1916)

THE WAR EFFORT

A great deal of effort was made to raise funds for the War Relief Committee, and the people worked relentlessly to see that the soldiers overseas were not denied the material things in life. The second annual general meeting of the Committee produced some interesting statistics. In a space of two years, the grand total of £2937 0s 3d had been raised in the village—which was a tremendous effort, indeed. In addition, over 17,000 articles of clothing, etc., had been made locally—of which Muirkirk had produced, 14,255 and Glenbuck 3,007—a total of 17,262 articles. The number of Belgium refugees under the local Committee at this time numbered 50, and comprised nine families.

The total mentioned (£2937 0s 3d) did represent the war liberality of the Parish, for each Committee has received or raised money, and the Parish had helped various functions from time to time. The following statement will give a fair idea of the response of the people of Muirkirk during the two-year period:—

(1) Raised by the Finance Committee	£2937	0	3
(2) Raised by the Belgium Committee	91	2	6
(3) Raised by the Industrial Committee	237	13	4
(4) Various Flag Days	216	12	1
(5) Per Carnival Committee	198	1	3
(6) Cumnock Free Gift Sale	85	0	0
(7) Craigie House Fete	60	0	0
(8) Rents by Kennox Colliery	18	12	0
(9) Rents allowed free by Wm.. Baird & Co	910	0	0
	£4754	1	5

WOMEN AT WORK

(11th May Issue)

In these strenuous times, when the aid of women is being called in to assist in keeping the wheels turning, as well as the fires burning, Muirkirk is "falling in," although she may not have her chaffeuse, etc. Women at pitheads have been quite common in many districts long before there were any signs of war, but we are not just that length yet. However, several women are now employed cleaning engines in the sheds at the Station, two are employed at the Slag Hill, two have been at the Sawmill at the Works for some time; we have a postwoman nowadays, while the gentler sex have been introduced into the Works Office, to fill places rendered vacant through enlistment, etc.

THE GRIM REAPER

Between New Year's Day and 19th January, 1916, ten deaths were registered. During, 1913, 1914, and 1915, it was the end of February before ten had been reached

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

A report of the Golden Wedding of Mr and Mrs John Williamson revealed some interesting information. Mr and Mrs Williamson were married in the Mason's Arms in June, 1866. Mrs Williamson's grandmother lived in Megslea at Auldhouseburn. Megslea Cottage had at that time (1916) long disappeared, but was situated on the old Golf Course. Mr Williamson saw the first train steam into Muirkirk on the G. & S. W. Railway. The first engine drew a load of trucks, and this was followed by another engine with a carriage and what he took to be officials. There was no tunnel at the Station in those days—there was only a level crossing. Midhouse Row and all the Terraces were built in his day, although the Old Linkieburn, The Square, and the Castle existed long before him. The canal boats were in full "steam" in those days, and his father assisted in the filling of them with coal at the Waukmill, from whence they were hauled to the Ironworks by horses walking along the canal banks. At the time the power for the Forge and the Mill was got from water wheels.

Another golden wedding report brought more interesting data to readers. The couple concerned were Mr and Mrs James Hamilton, Toll Cottage, Smallburn. Mr Hamilton was employed by the Railway Co., and his first job was on the road in front of the Red Row. Instead of the roadway that passed under the railway before the tunnel was made, access to the Southside was got by means of a level crossing, and the road in front of the Red Row went straight ahead. Mr Hamilton was first employed in opening and shutting by hand the gates in connection with the railway traffic at the Iron Works, while there was another set of gates just parallel, wrought with a wheel from a signal box, controlling the G. & S. W. Railway lines. Some four years later (about 1880) the tunnel was opened and Mr Hamilton's services were requisitioned on the platform of the Old Station (where now is situated the house at the car track) as a porter.

GLENBUCK MINING

From the Issue of 31st August:-

Some excitement is now being caused by the re-opening of the Glenbuck Coalfield. Last week, after the "Pug" had been in for the first time since the Galawhistle stopped, it was the favourite walk up the Brae. A start was made last Friday to unload the material required. It is said that the name of the Company is to be "Burnbank Coal Co."

And in 7th December Issue:—

The New Company—Work is progressing with the New Co. in Glenbuck. The haulage is now started, the first rake being taken up the Brae last week.

ADVERT.—

Greenwood's 1916 Cars—5 Seater Fords

From Only £135

THE LATE MR THOMAS BONE

The Quoiting Champion of the World

The sons of Glenbuck have won fame in many spheres; but in the realm of sport, considering the population, the village is perhaps without rival in the production of men who have reached the high water mark.

It is our sad duty to-day (November 30th Issue) to refer to the death of an illustrious native, one of the brightest lights the quoiting world has ever known, viz.: Mr Thomas Bone, the undisputed Champion of Great Britain, which sad event took place in his native village on Tuesday of last week. Tommy was a miner to trade, and several years ago he received an injury to one of his eyes while at work, losing the sight of it. He never seemed to fully recover from the accident, and for a about a year he has been an invalid, the end coming as above stated, much to the regret of all who knew him.

Tom Bone was born in Glenbuck 48 years ago, and has always resided there. He came into the limelight in the quoiting circles when he was twenty years of age, playing his first stake match in 1888 at Cumnock with the renowned James McMurdo, and won by 61—42. Since that time he has always been in the fore in the realm of quoiting, and he had few if any equals, having defeated all who came before him. He first won the Scottish Championship from Watters of Lochgelly in 1889, at Glasgow, defeating the Fife man by 61—58. Watters was undoubtedly his most notable opponent, and many an historic battle they had. In other Championship matches he played with Andrew Connel of Darvel, Robert Kirkwood of Banknock, and the present Champion of Scotland (the title having been relinquished by the subject of this sketch owing to ill-health)—Richard McBride of Galston, meeting the latter in four big matches, winning three times and losing once, this at East Calder, by 61—58. One of the most historical matches ever played in Scotland was that for the Championship of Great Britain, between Tom Bone and James Hood of Liverpool, the English Champion, the match taking place at Motherwell about eight years ago. In such deadly form did the Glenbuck marvel play that day that the English Champion was seldom allowed an opportunity to score, and the Englishman was defeated by 61—27.

Bone also held the record for the Ballochmyle Silver Quoit, having won it no fewer than 14 times—a record which in all probability will never be equalled. His name is also engraved on the Howard-de-Walden Cup no less than six times. In tournament play he was peerless, and has competed at all the principal events. In the premier quoiting tournament of Scotland, held annually at Darvel, he competed for four medals, which must be won twice before becoming one's own property. Of these he won two outright, and on the last occasion he competed he beat his opponent, Robertson, by 15 shots to nil in the final.

His last appearance in the ring was with John Durney at Barrmill in an exhibition game, fully a year ago, but as Tom was far from well, and had the sight of but one eye he was unable to do himself justice, and this proved to be his last game.

Many an exciting game of practice has been seen at Glen-

buck, firstly between Tom and his brother James, who now resides in Motherwell, where Tom was a great favourite, and latterly with Matt. Park, now with the colours. James especially was very little behind Tom in ability. Tom was unmarried, and resided with his sister in Glenbuck.

CAMP SHOOTING TRAGEDY

At Richmond (Yorkshire) Police Court last week (September 20) Private Frederick Burt, Royal Scots Fusiliers, was sent on trial on a charge of the wilful murder of Bugler Robert Preston, sixteen, of the same Regiment. When warned by the Orderly Sergeant for guard duty on the night of August 25 the accused refused, and followed the Sergeant out with his rifle. Not finding him, he returned to his hut, and covering his comrades in bed with his rifle, threatened to shoot the first one who looked up. He was given biscuits and cigarettes to coax him, but of no avail. To show that he was in earnest he fired a shot through the end, just missing Sergeant Galloway outside. He then fired another through the door, the bullet entering another hut and striking Preston on the shoulder, killing him. It may not be generally known that the victim of this tragedy is a younger brother of Gunner John H. Preston, our local hairdresser, presently on service. The Prestons, of course, belong to Kilmaurs. Another feature in the incident that connects it with Muirkirk is the fact that it was Private John Short who wounded and disarmed Burt immediately after the tragedy.

REMOVAL OF OLD LANDMARK

The old chimney stack of the Davy Pit, Glenbuck, which had weathered the storm and tempest for over 40 years was felled on 24th August by the employees of the new Colliery. It was a landmark which could be seen for miles around, but its condition was unsafe, and it was accordingly brought down.

THE LATE MR WILLIAM PEARSON

The death on 17th November signalled the loss of another well-known and highly-respected businessman in the person of Mr William Pearson, Draper, Muirkirk. Mr Pearson was a native of Cumnock, and came to Muirkirk about 1878, taking over the Draper and Clothing business at the corner of Glasgow Road and Main Street (now Trotter's). He was a good friend of the U.F. Church although he would never accept an office in the Church, he was for the long period of 32 years Superintendent of the Sabbath School. Mr Pearson was a J.P. for the County; Chairman of the Muirkirk Gas Light Co. Treasurer of the Merchants' Association; and a member of the Old Age Pensioners' Association.

DEFUNCT

The "Cumnock News" ceased publication after 36 years

SCHOOL ROLL

The School Roll in 1916 was made up as follows—

Main Street	235
Furnace Road	546
Wellwood	26
Glenbuck	169

GARDEN COMPETITION

A competition organised by the Ironworks Horticultural Society for the best vegetable garden resulted:—

1. Thomas Findlay (93 points).
2. (Equal) Thomas Morrison (92 points)
William Dunsmuir (90 points)
3. (Equal) Hugh Moreland (87 points),
William Hill (86 points).

SEEN AND HEARD

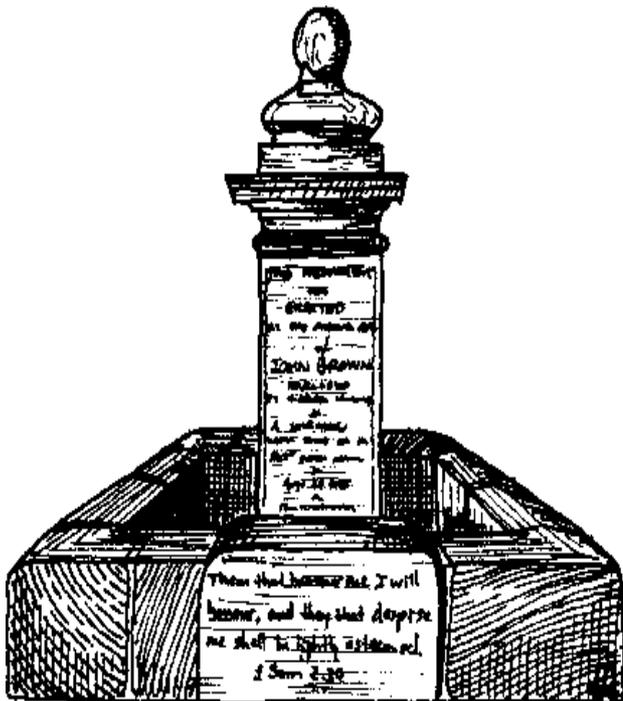
Mr David Taylor was appointed Greenkeeper at Muirkirk Bowling Club.

Mr James Phillips, M.A., resigned as Headmaster at Furnace Road School, a post he held for three years. He takes up a similar position at Kirkintilloch.

Sgt. John Halliday was awarded the Military Medal in connection with bomb throwing in France.

Mr J. F. Gordon, M.A., was appointed Headmaster at Furnace Road School. Mr Gordon was previously at Hutcheson's Girls' Grammar School, Glasgow.

JOHN BROWN'S MEMORIAL



AT PRIESTHILL

SEEN AND HEARD

Alex. Dean, Gent.'s Hairdresser, closed his business in Main Street.

The funeral of Marion Fleming, Bankhead, took place to the Parish Churchyard on 1st April.

A Muirkirk miner who left the village in 1901 and entered the Police Force in Manchester has been promoted to the rank of Inspector. He was John Maxwell.

On 22nd January a fire severely damaged the home of Mr Robert Thomson, Morton Place (where now stands the Day Centre).

Rev. John Alexander, M.A., appointed Minister at Kames Mission Church.

Co-operative Dividend was 3/- per £1.

Local man, Mr Donald McDougall, won a Gold Medal in a singing competition in the City Hall, Glasgow.

The following teachers tendered their resignations:—

- Miss Burrows (Furnace Road)
- Miss Prentice (Main Street)
- Miss McLean (Cookery Teacher)

In a Quoting challenge match for £20 John Kilpatrick, Muirkirk, beat James Weir, Auchinleck, 61-64.

To help the War Effort local miners decided to postpone their annual holiday.

At Glenbuck, in a Penny Pitching Contest, David Bain beat W. Brown 11-7.

The death was announced of the Rev. John Dundas, formerly of Main Street U.F. Church.

At a public roup in the Temperance Hall, the property in the Smallburn known as Ashbank Cottage was disposed of to Mrs Holden, Kames Cottages, for £214.

MORTON PLACE



FURNACE ROAD—
Now the site of the Day Centre

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1916**BIRTHS**

GOURLAY.—At Girvan on 17th July, to Mr and Mrs Thomas Gourlay a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

JACKSON—TAYLOR.—On 10th November, Peter Jackson to Jeannie Taylor.

DEATHS

McMILLAN.—On 7th January, William McMillan, aged 35 years

PARK.—On 9th January, James Park, aged 69 years, of Garronhill.

WILSON.—On 16th January, John W. K. Wilson, aged 49, McGladrie's Buildings, Muirkirk.

MURDOCH.—At 7 Kames Row on 25th January, Janet Allan Murdoch, aged 52 years.

CLARK.—At Ardrossan on 23rd February, Mary Mathieson Clark, late of Muirkirk.

CREARIE.—At Stableyard on 24th February, James Crearie, aged 65 years.

ROBB.—At Bridge Street on 4th March, Agnes Brown Robb, aged 63 years.

TAYLOR.—At Main Street on 13th March, George Taylor, aged 9 months.

FLOYD.—In Australia. John Campbell Floyd, late of Wee Torhill, aged 59 years.

HOLDEN.—Accidentally killed in Kames Colliery on 7th April, David Holden, of Kames Cottages, aged 66 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Garronhill on 23rd April, Wee Robert, aged 8 months.

CRANSTON.—At Craigeleith on 25th April, L/Cpl. John Cranston, aged 27 years.

MAXWELL.—In New Zealand on 20th March, John Maxwell, late of Glasgow Road.

BONE.—At Old School Row, Glenbuck, on 21st May, George Bone, aged 15 years.

SAMSON.—At 15 Midhouse Terrace on 21st May, Archibald Samson, aged 65 years.

STRATHEARN.—At Craigneuk on 29th June, James Starthearn, late of Garronhill.

McMICHAEL.—At Victoria Infirmary on 29th June, Marion Anderson McMichael, of Burnbank Cottage.

GORDON.—At Bristol on 10th August, Pte. Robert Gordon, aged 24 years, of Douglas Place.

JACK.—At Lawson's Buildings on 12th August, William Jack, aged 82 years.

HOUSTON.—Died of wounds received in France, Captain Thomas Cameron Houston.

GREENWOOD.—As a result of wounds received in action, Gunner Hugh Greenwood, of 11 Park Terrace.

SERVICE.—At Paisley on 16th September, Janet Shaw Service, aged 62 years.

CAMPBELL.—At Larkhall on 6th October, John Campbell, aged 58 years.

IRVING.—At Hawick on 24th September, Vharlotte McDonald Brown Irving, aged 42 years.

SMITH.—At 38 New Terrace on 7th November, Jeannie Smith, aged 15 years.

PEARSON.—At Glasgow on 17th November, William Pearson (draper), aged 63, of Ardenleigh, Muirkirk.

ANGUS.—At Leith on 9th December, Daisy Angus, aged 15 years.

MONTGOMERY.—At Glasgow on 5th December, John Montgomery, aged 5, of Manse Lane.

THE TOON STORE CLOCK

CHAPTER TEN

(1917)

OBITUARIES

The Grim Reaper was extremely busy in the village in 1917, and the remains of some eminent persons were laid to rest in Muirkirk cemetery, viz.:

JOHN S. WEIR

The death was announced of Mr John S. Weir, of Heathfield, Glasgow Road, on 8th March. Mr Weir was a Muirkirk man, having been born in *Meikle's Row in 1840. He began his working life as an iron-worker, being employed as a heater, etc., at Muirkirk Ironworks for several years. He removed to Coatbridge where he was a mill worker for some years in the Ironworks there. On his return to his native village he started business as a Dairyman, and also set up a Stationery Business - both in Furnace Road. He was a keen Freemason, and held nearly every post in Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, including that of R.W.M. Mr Weir took an active part in the life of the village, and was well respected. He was a prominent Elder of the Parish Church. His remains were laid to rest with full Masonic honours.

(*) Later the site of Victoria Buildings and now the site of Muirtex and Nelson Russell's house.

J. G. A. BAIRD OF WELLWOOD

The death of Mr Baird on 6th April was announced with deep regret. Mr Baird was born near Monkton in 1854, and was a son of the late William Baird of Elie, one of the founders of the well-known firm of Messrs Wm. Baird & Co., Coal and Iron Masters. Col. Baird succeeded to Wellwood Estate in 1876 on the death of his uncle, James Baird of Auchmeddan. During the next few years the young officer visited Muirkirk regularly to shoot, etc., and on these occasions resided at Kameshill.

Mr James Nicol, forester, resided in old Wellwood House, but Mr Baird demolished the old house and built the present edifice (now demolished) on part of the same site, the old building covering only a comparatively small piece of the ground. The old house, the walls of which were five feet thick in some places, and the windows very small, had been used simply as a shooting box. On his marriage in 1880 with a daughter of Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran, Mr Baird resigned his commission in the Army and came to reside in the present Wellwood House (now demolished). The marriage took place in Bombay, where Sir James at that time was Governor. Mr Baird entered Parliament and for twenty years represented the Central Division of Glasgow in the House of Commons in the Conservative interest. He commanded the Ayrshire Imperial Yeomanry from 1901 to 1909. With a taste for antiquarian research, a few years ago, together with Mr Archibald Fairbairn, headkeeper at Muirkirk, Mr Baird successfully unearthed the remains of several pre-historic dwellings on his estate, and in this connection he contributed to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1914, "An Account of the Excavation of Two Hut Circles at Muirkirk." He took a great interest in the ancient history of the Parish and as the result of a lecture on the subject given before

Muirkirk Ramblers' Club, he published in 1910 his book entitled, "Muirkirk in Bygone Days." He took a great interest in the affairs of the village, and about 1889 he presented to the village the Baird Institute (now demolished, but built on the landscaped site next to the Memorial Gates). The Institute was built of stone taken from the quarry near Maidenbank, Glenbuck. The funeral took place at Haddington.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM S. PIRIE

On 24th April news reached Muirkirk by telegram of the death of Capt. Pirrie. It was a bald statement: "Pirrie fell in action on 19th; no particulars." Needless to say the sad intimation caused deep regret, for he was universally liked. Captain Pirrie came to Muirkirk direct from Aberdeen University, nearly ten years ago, and took up the teaching of the Supplementary Class at Furnace Road School. From his advent there he took a conspicuous part in the life of the village. He was a prominent official and player of the Athletic Football Club, and was the R.W.M. of the local Lodge of Freemasons. As a shot he proved himself to be one of the best in the country, and on several occasions competed successfully at Bisley and Darnley. He was interested in the Scout movement and from its inception Captain Pirrie took an interest in the local Company of Territorials. Captain Pirrie left Muirkirk with his Company in August, 1914, but was retained on the staff of the School Board. Volunteering for foreign service he saw much fighting at Gallipoli, and for conspicuous bravery was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on the field. Since the evacuation of the Peninsula, the Captain has been stationed in Egypt, and now he has met an untimely end, as have so many gallant young fellows. Captain Pirrie knew no fear, and that perhaps has proved his undoing

DR. DAVID CARRUTHERS

Once more the Reaper has visited our village, and on this occasion removed one whose life's work has largely been that of warding off his blows. Doctor David Carruthers was found dead in bed last Saturday morning (9th June). For some time it was known to his more intimate friends that he was not feeling too well; indeed, neither did he look it. The intimation came as a shock to all, causing a wave of deep regret throughout the neighbourhood. Doctor Carruthers came to Muirkirk about 1882 as assistant to the late Doctor Ritchie. After some years he was made a partner, and, with the retiral and removal of Dr Ritchie to West Linton, Dr Carruthers carried on the practice himself. As a medical man Dr Carruthers was extremely cautious. He took a very broad view of things, and his wide experience helped him in his profession. While as a medical man he enjoyed the respect and confidence of a large clientele, to very many in the Parish he acted as a guide, philosopher, and friend, and his acts of charity towards the aged and infirm, as well as those who were down on their luck, and they were many, will never be adequately known. Like most Scotsmen he delighted in a joke or good story, and seldom did one leave Dr Carruthers' com-

pany in the dumps. The Doctor formed an opinion of his own on most matters, and had courage enough to state it, whether he happened to be in the minority or the majority; he refused to swim with the tide if the waters were not in his opinion rolling towards the shore of justice and right. The Doctor took a great interest in the welfare of the inhabitants of the Parish. Doctor Carruthers served on the School Board, and was President of the Baird Institute. He was 62 years of age, and unmarried, belonged to Ecclefechan.

Mr R. A. LESLIE, J.P.

To-day (1st May) we have to record the death of Mr R. A. Leslie, J.P., "Remore," Wellwood Street. Mr Leslie was born at Remore in Nairnshire. His business training was begun in the office of a banker and solicitor in Nairn. He spent some time in Glasgow, but bad health forced him to seek outdoor employment and took up duties with the North British Railway Co. Mr Leslie was appointed Stationmaster at Muirkirk in 1870, being transferred from Galston. In 1882 Mr Leslie was appointed Inspector of Poor, School Board Clerk, and Registrar of this Parish, from which, to the regret of all, he retired two years ago owing to failing health, but was retained in the capacity of consulting clerk. Mr Leslie took his full share in the public life of the village. Interested in music, he took a leading part in the formation of the late Choral Union—once a power in Muirkirk musically. In 1910 he was appointed Justice of the Peace.

Mr RICHARD CUNNINGHAM

Death has been busy lately amongst what may be termed the older school, and those who have for many years occupied prominent positions in the locality. The latest to be called hence is Mr Richard Cunningham, F.E.I.S., the sad event taking place at his residence, Ballater Lodge, Wellwood Street, on 7th June.

On the 1st June, 1877, when only 22 years of age, Mr Cunningham entered upon his arduous duties as Headmaster of Furnace Road School. In 1912 his health broke down, when he was granted leave of absence for some months, but, his condition not improving as much as could be wished, he tendered his resignation early in the following year, much to the regret of the members of the School Board, and was granted a pension of £50 a year from the school fund. For the long period of 36 years Mr Cunningham was thus the chief figure in the educational life of the village, and during that time secured records of successes in county examinations which will probably stand so far as country schools are concerned.

A hard worker himself from early morn till late at e'en, he endeavoured to imbue his pupils with the desire for knowledge, and those who were willing to work to better themselves received every encouragement. For this purpose for years he held a class at 7.30 in the morning, pupils and teachers alike going home for breakfast. His science classes in the evenings were also largely attended and most successful. Mr Cunningham leaves a widow, two sons, and three daughters to mourn his loss.

SNIPPETS

Due to the war effort and the reduction of paper imports the distribution of the "Advertiser" was restricted to one copy per household.

John Lindsay (85), Railway Buildings, was interred in Muirkirk Churchyard.

Sphagnum Moss, which is in abundance on the moors around Muirkirk, was gathered regularly to help the wounded soldiers in the war. With the shortage of cotton for wound dressing, the moss was a valuable substitute, and upwards of ninety villagers joined in these gathering expeditions.

Following a very dry summer water restrictions were brought into force during the month of August, when the supply was cut off for 11 hours out of 24.

The U.F. Church in Main Street was converted into a hall for local functions, etc. It was later to be converted again, this time into the Regal Cinema. It was situated where now stands the Co-operative car park.

Mr William McIntyre, substituting for John H. Preston, increased the price of haircutting to 5d. Shaving was 2½d.

Dr Carruthers estate was worth £5,608 8s 2d.

During the winter the local schools were closed because of an epidemic of measles.

CARNIVAL

A three-day carnival of local events was held in aid of the War effort, and what an outstanding success it proved to be. The total raised was £350. This indeed was a lot of money in those days. The previous Carnivals had raised :—1915, £198; 1916, £288.

GOLF

There was a crisis at Auldhouseburn Golf Course in 1917 due to the fact that part of the course would have to be given up for food production as part of the war effort.

An adjourned special general meeting of the Club was held in the Ironworks Institute, when Mr John Young, J.P., President, was in the chair. It was intimated that the farmers were agreeable to give the use of the field immediately to the east of the top part of the course in lieu of the field to be ploughed, at the same rent, and on the same conditions, which it was unanimously agreed to accept. The location of the greens in the new field, which in future is to be known as the Vault Field was left with Mr McCulloch, greens convener, and the enthusiasts, as was the laying of the greens. The fact of the pavilion and the shelter being wantonly interfered with was considered, and it was decided to offer £1 reward for such information as will lead to the conviction of the culprits

PRESENTATION

Mr William Blackwood, Joiner, Nessville, Wellwood Street, Muirkirk, was presented with a handsome silver tray by friends in Muirkirk United Free Church in recognition of his 30 years' work as teacher and 25 years as Treasurer in the Sabbath School. He has also been for 25 years Treasurer of the Deacons Court.

THE RAILWAY TAVERN

At Ayr Licensing Court, in connection with a licence held by John Gray, Railway Tavern Public House, Furnace Road, the Police reported that about the end of March last year the licence-holder became bankrupt. By arrangement with the trustees he was allowed to continue in the business, but about November, leaving a man in charge, he removed to Glasgow, where he got work. At 8 p.m. on Friday, 16th February, 1917, the man left in charge had to close the shop, as all the liquor was sold out, and the place had been closed since. The police recommended that the licence be discontinued. There was no appearance of the applicant and the licence was refused. N.B.—The premises in question was across the road from the present Johnstone's Shop in Furnace Road. The last occupant was probably Mitchell the Painter.

MEMORIAL CAIRN

In August, 1917, a memorial cairn was built on the summit of Wardlaw Hill, the inscription on which read:

To the memory of Colonel J. G. A. Baird of Wellwood, who died 6th April, 1917, the Muirkirk Company of the Ayrshire Volunteer Regiment have, with their own hands, erected this Cairn.

MINING

Glespin Pit closed some time ago, and the plant came under the auctioneer's hammer quite lately, the landscape being quite changed about the little village. The lessees of the neighbouring colliery at Carmacoup, the Kennox Colliery Co. Ltd., have now taken a lease of the minerals under the lands of East and West Glespin, and have also bought over the workmen's houses at Glespin, to the number of fully forty. No time has been lost in getting to work on the new fields, and coal is now being produced. A considerable number of the Glespin miners are now employed there, and it also affords another open door for Muirkirk district men.

THE WEATHER

Early in February of 1917, 28 degrees of frost were registered in Muirkirk.

The last week-end of March saw some severe wintry weather, snow falling almost every day. In the South of Scotland several roads were blocked and the snow-plough failed to clear them. There were three-quarters of an inch of ice at Perth on Sunday morning, and birds were found lying dead in the fields and gardens, while in Glasgow the same morning 22 degrees of frost were recorded.

At Muirkirk on Sunday the thermometer registered 25 degrees of frost—only three degrees less than the hardest this winter, while at Berwick there were 29 degrees and at Moffat 27 degrees. Six inches of snow fell in London.

On Tuesday morning the snow blizzard was the worst here this winter, only 25 per cent. of the children putting in an appearance at school—9 turning out for two classes, 6 instead of 50 in another, &c. This is the worst record for thirty years.

SOME ADVERTISERS IN 1917

BLACKWOOD'S, POST OFFICE, Main Street
GRENWOOD'S GARAGE, Main Street
JOHN KERR'S, GROCERS, Main Street
JOHN A. GEDDES, Tailor, Main Street
PEARSON'S WAREHOUSE, Main Street
JOHN D. DUNBAR, Grain Merchant
N. DA PRATO'S, Fish and Chips
MISS HOLDEN, Corsetiere, Kames Cottage
DURHAM BETRAM, Dancing Teacher (Glenbuck)
LAPRAIK BURNS CLUB
Mrs HUGH LOVE, Fishmonger

GLENBUCK

The other day the door of a shop in Glenbuck which had gathered round it memorable associations for the younger people of Glenbuck finally closed—at least under the old regime. We refer to the shop known as Leezie Milliken's. A year or two ago Leezie went the way of all flesh, and her successor has now hurriedly sold off. What the feelings of the myriads of young people who frequented the shop in years gone by for ginger pop, ice-cream, or hot peas, according to the season—aye, for anything, including a crack and some sport—what the feelings of those who frequented it in its palmy days would have been to have viewed the now empty establishment we leave themselves to imagine. It must have caused something akin to a shock, for it was *the rendezvous* of the youth and beauty of the place—the local Westminster, and the headquarters of all the Football Associations. With the demise of Leezie, however, it gradually lost its charm, and the house was subject to the same vagaries as affect at least all small concerns—amongst them the personality of the proprietor, for Leezie was of the happy-go-lucky type, and, while the butt of many a joke, she could give and take. Truly, the old order changeth

STEELE'S

On 1st February Mr James Steele took over the Drapery business of William Pearson & Son, situated at the corner of Main Street and Glasgow (occupied at time of writing by John Trotter Sons & Co. Ltd.)

TRAVEL NEWS

John G. Muir (Glenbuck), Motor Hirer, intimates that for each journey with four or less passengers would be as follows:

To:	Glenbuck Station	2/-
	Muirkirk Village	5/-
	Muirkirk Station	6/-

Larger Distances:
8d per mile covered.

Saturday Nights To and from Muirkirk—1/6 per person
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PARISH WAR RELIEF FUND COMMITTEE

A financial statement covering the last three years of collecting for the War effort showed that the grand total raised in the Parish of Muirkirk was £37,733 7s 3½d. The figures, which spoke for themselves, were most gratifying, and were worthy of any place, and no other conclusion could be come to than that Muirkirk was a very patriotic Parish.

THOSE IN CHARGE

Muirkirk Bowling Club

President William Logie
Vice-President Robert Barrie
Secretary Hugh Bell
Treasurer Robert Thomson

Muirkirk Golf Club

Hon. President Dugald Baird
President John Young
Vice-President John McCulloch
Secretary/Treasurer William S. Smith

Cairntable Quoiting Club

President John Kirkpatrick, Sen.
Secretary William Bine, Kirkgreen
Treasurer William Bone, main Street.

A LOCAL INVENTOR

Amongst the list of new inventions just registered at the Patent Office, London, is that of a self-activating gate for colliery cages, and the inventor is Mr George M. Bain, a young miner residing in Glasgow Road. The gates will be on the market as soon as opportunity occurs, and as there will be practically no limit to the outlet, it is hoped the inventor will reap a commensurate reward for his skill and pluck

**ADVERTISING IS TO BUSINESS WHAT
STEAM IS TO MACHINERY—
THE GREAT PROPELLING POWER.**

— — — — —
| One step won't take you very far— |
| You've got to keep on walking; |
| One word won't tell folks what you are— |
| You've got to keep on talking; |
| One inch won't make you very tall— |
| You've got to keep on growing; |
| One little "ad." won't do at all— |
| You've got to keep 'em going! |
— — — — —

**ADVERTISE
IN THE "ADVERTISER."**

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1917

BIRTHS

ALLISON.—At Main Street on 10th April, the wife of Jas. C. Allison; a son.
KERR.—At Lanark on 1st May, to Mr and Mrs Robert Kerr; a son.

MARRIAGES

SGT. W. J. HADDEN to MARGARET WHITE on 28th December, 1916.
NEIL ARMOUR CRAIG to MARY M. McKAY on 13th April.
ROBERT McFEGAN, Stableyard, to AGNES WRIGHT in Canada on 30th March.
MAGGIE GIBSON (Old Terrace) to R. STEWART, on 26th June.

DEATHS

PARK.—At 1 White's Row, Glenbuck, on 7th January, George Park, aged 61.
BAIRD.—At Kateshaugh on 21st January, Joseph Baird, aged 66 years.
HAMILTON.—At Ayr on 28th January, Jane Robertson Hamilton.
STEELE.—At Main Street on 4th February, Wee John, aged 3 months.
WEIR.—At Masons Arms Hotel on 7th February, Aileen Weir.
McCULLOCH.—At 27 Kames Row on 25th February, Robert McCulloch, aged 15 years.
ANDERSON.—At Ironworks Institute on 28th February, Matthew Anderson, aged 34 years.
WEIR.—At Heathfield, Muirkirk, on 6th March, John Weir, aged 77 years.
STITT.—At Torhill on 8th March, Annie Callan Stitt, aged 43 years.
BELL.—At Main Street Schoolhouse on 11th March, Margaret Steele Bell (wife of Charles P. Bell).
DICKSON.—At Main Street on 17th March, James Dickson (Tailor), aged 77 years.
LINDSAY.—At Cumnock on 17th March, Elizabeth Lindsay (wife of William Lindsay), aged 73 years.
POLLOCK.—At Albert Place on 26th March, John Pollock, aged 6 months.
MURDOCH.—At 23 Midhouse Row on 30th March, John Murdoch, aged 58 years.
BARRIE.—At Albert Place on 8th April, wee Andrew, aged 7½ months.
CHAPMAN.—At 23 Springhill Terrace on 15th April, wee Peggy, aged 1 year.

DEATHS (Continued)

McDONALD.—At Victoria Buildings on 16th April, Agnes McDonald, aged 7 months.

YOUNG.—In Australia on 13th November, 1916, Elizabeth Young, aged 79 years.

GRANT.—Killed in action in France on 3rd April, Alex. Grant, aged 27 years.

LESLIE.—At Remore, Wellwood Street, on 1st May, Robert Leslie (Late Parish Clerk).

HASTINGS.—At Glasgow on 5th May, Robert Hastings, aged 21 years.

BAIRD.—At Glasgow on 12th May, Annie Baird (of Hedge Grove), aged 16 years.

WEIR.—Killed in action on 9th June, David Weir (of Grasshill Row, Glenbuck), aged 20 years.

CUNNINGHAM.—At Ballater Lodge, Wellwood Street on 7th June, Robert Cunningham, aged 62 years.

BLACK.—Missing in France, now officially reported killed, William Black (of 22 Park Terrace), aged 20 years.

HIBBERD.—At 21 Old Terrace on 29th June, Jean Hibberd, aged 68 years.

SAMSON.—At Bridge Street on 8th July, Margaret Samson, aged 81 years.

WHYTE.—At Entryhead on 18th July, Thomas Whyte, aged 80 years.

DYSART.—In Ireland on 26th July, Grace Thomson Dysart.

CLARK.—At Clark's Buildings on 19th August, wee Willie, aged 5 years.

WALKER.—At Bridge Street on 27th August, Mary Lindsay Walker.

HAZEL.—At Garronhill on 2nd September, Alex. Clowes Hazel.

BOYES.—Killed in action in France on 22nd August, James Watson Boyes (of Main Street).

BROWN.—At Dunbar's Buildings, the result of war wounds, on 25th September, William Brown, aged 26 years.

RITCHIE.—At 6 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 17th September David Ritchie, aged 79 years.

REID.—Killed in action in France on 30th August, Walter Reid, aged 30 years.

IRVINE.—On 15th October, wee Hannah, aged 1 year 10 months (of 15 Springhill Terrace).

ROBB.—At Smallburn on 17th October, James Robb, aged 9 months.

WHITE.—Died of wounds received in action on 17th October, T. P. White (of Glenbuck).

McMORRAN.—Died of wounds received in action on 19th October, John McMorran (of Smallburn).

PATERSON.—Died of wounds received in action on 30th October, W. J. Paterson (of Middlefield Cottage).

LINDSAY.—At Edinburgh on 15th November, Robina Lindsay (of Glenbuck).

BAIRD.—Killed in action on 20th November, George Baird (of Garronhill).

KILPATRICK.—At Coalburn on 4th December, Mary Watters Kilpatrick, aged 61 years.

TAIT.—At Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 5th December, wee John, aged 17 months.

KELLOCK.—At Main Street on 26th December, Robert Kellock, aged 78 years.

Mr RICHARD CUNNINGHAM

Headmaster of Furnace Road School, 1877—1912

CHAPTER ELEVEN

(1918)

THE GREAT WAR

The war raged on in Europe and the sterling work of the Muirkirk Parish War Relief Fund Committee continued, with weekly collections, donations, and a variety of fund-raising functions augmenting the funds and enabling the Committee to provide the soldiers with clothing, food parcels, etc. But all the while the sons of Muirkirk were paying a high price for the country's effort to obtain peace in Europe. Up and till the end of 1917, fifty-six local lads had paid the supreme sacrifice.

LOCAL STATISTICS

During the year 1917 there were 114 births within the Parish, against 130 in 1916; there were 67 deaths against 57; and 24 marriages against 20. These figures can hardly be looked upon with satisfaction; with four more marriages the birth-rate is down 13 per cent and the death rate up 12 per cent. Of the 67 deaths, 28 were of children two years of age and under, 6 were over two and under forty, 18 were between 40 and 70, and 15 were over 70. Of the 114 births, 105 were registered legitimate, and 9 as illegitimate.

SEVERE WEATHER

On Monday morning (14th January) we had our hardest frost of the winter so far, the thermometer registering 35 degrees of frost, or 3 degrees below zero at Kaimshill, while yesterday morning 26 degrees of frost were registered. Householders who occupy domiciles with what are popularly known as "all modern conveniences," are presently made painfully aware of the fact that they are all modern inconveniences, frozen and burst pipes being the rule. As a consequence the plumbers are adorned with the smile that won't come off.

WAR WEAPON WEEK

War Weapon Week at Muirkirk proved a great success, the sum invested through the Bank, Post Office, and Schools, exceeding the most sanguine expectations. It was hoped that £2,500—the value of one aeroplane—might be obtained, whereas the total invested during the week amounted to £9,407—almost the value of four aeroplanes. The totals for the six days were respectively £228, £998, £1,051, £2,246, £3,153, and £1,731.

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH

Father Bohan has been appointed to the charge of Newton-Stewart and Creetown, and left for his new sphere on 9th May. During the nine years he has sojourned in Muirkirk, Father Bohan has, by his quiet, unostentatious, and sincere manner, gained the respect of all, and his transfer will be regretted by many. For some years he has been a member of the Parish Council. Father Bohan is succeeded by Father Joyce, from Irvine.

CURLING

The roaring game was a popular sport locally, but it was not generally known that Muirkirk Curling Club was one of the oldest in Scotland, having been instituted in 1784—over 130 years ago. In the Annual of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club for 1845 the membership of Muirkirk Club in 1844 is given, and reproduction of the list will perhaps prove interesting to our readers. To Mr Thomas Weir we are indebted for the information within parenthesis, and it will be seen that many of the families are still represented in the Parish, although perhaps differently located. The members were:—

Alex Aird (Crossflatt)	Jas Smith (Shoemaker)
John Wilson (Park Cott.)	Jas. Mitchell (Shepherd)
David Lapraik (Hall)	John Richard (Collector)
Peter Graham (Carter)	Andrew Gemmell (Drainer)
Hugh Anderson (Greenockdyke)	
David Anderson (Auldhouseburn)	
Alex. Mair	David Riddle
Andrew Riddle	Gavin Moffat (Burnfoot)
Robert Wilson (Shepherd)	Thos. Taylor (Butcher)
John Begg (Blacksmith)	Thos. Bryden (Grocer)
David Moffat (Burnfoot)	Wm. Dick (Grasshill)
Hugh Begg (Blacksmith)	John Davidson (Roadman)
John Lapraik (Baker)	George Patrick (Kateshall)
Hugh Smith (Shoemaker)	Robert Pearson (Draper)
John McMin (Mid Well'd)	Jas. Mickel (Blacksmith)
Robert Kay (Black Bull)	John Taylor (Cattle Dealer)
William Stark (Contractor)	Gavin Gemmell (Garpel)
Hugh Blackwood	Hugh Anderson (Townhead)
Andrew Merry (Dalfram)	Q. Campbell (Netherwood)
John Blackwood (Middle)	John Crosbie (Garpel)
Thomas Wilson	William Richard (Middlefield)
Wm. Smith (Shoemaker)	Jas. Hair (Midhouse)
William Kay	Adam Brown (Mason)
Wm. Simson (Showmaker)	Hugh McCrone, Masons Arms
A. Richard (Estate Worker)	

Alex. Aird (Crossflatt) was President, and H. B. McCrone, Secretary.

QUOITING

A match at 21 yards for £10 took place at the Masons Arms Quoiting Ground on 25th May between John Barr, Coalburn, and Matt. Anderson, Muirkirk. Anderson won easily with a 61-46 score.

WELL-KNOWN CHARACTER DEAD

Last Monday afternoon, 27th June, Neddy Boyle passed from the world's stage. He was found in a field on Kames Farm, near Wellwood Pit, in a serious condition, through asthma and lung bleeding, while being removed per motor to the Poorhouse Hospital at Ayr, breathed his last while passing through Ochiltree Parish.

Neddy was a well-known character in Muirkirk, where he has resided for many years. In his palmy days he took part in several boxing contests, and these he loved to rehearse. Many a time the younger fry here got Neddy worked up, and had him squaring up and forming a ring in no time. Neddy was always in good heart; "there's no use in grumbling," was his usual salutation. He was 72 years, although he didn't look it. He was buried at At Ayr.

**THE LATE
MR CHARLES HOWATSON
OF GLENBUCK**

On 24th January last, at his residence at Glenbuck House, Mr Charles Howatson breathed his last. Mr Howatson, who had reached the ripe old age of 86 years, was a well-known and striking personality in the district, and had been visibly failing of late, although he was still able to attend to business, and walk about the house, till Monday of last week, when he had a paralytic seizure, from which he succumbed on the Thursday following.

Mr Howatson was born in 1832, in the Parish of Auchinleck, and came of an old and honourable farming stock. He was the eldest son of the late Wm. Howatson of Cronberry, who died in 1882, and who was the second son of Charles Howatson of Craigdarroch and Cronberry. His mother was a daughter of George Samson of Rigg, Auchinleck, and his father's mother was eldest daughter of John Reid of Duncanziemere and Cronberry. With such an array of farming sires it can be of little marvel that Mr Howatson had from the first been strongly attracted by similar pursuits.

For long, however, the main business of his life lay in a different sphere. At the age of 15 he entered the offices of Messrs Wm. Baird & Co., ironmasters, Gartsherrie, and eight years later, when that firm acquired Muirkirk Ironworks, he was appointed to organise and manage the new concern. Previously these works had proved a comparative failure, but under the new management they made a fresh start, and have since had a history of uninterrupted success. While manager of the works, Mr Howatson took a personal interest in the men under his charge, encouraging temperance and thrift, stopping the sale of liquor at the Company's Store, and paying a bonus to the workmen who were abstainers. He retired from the management of the works in 1870.

Meanwhile Mr Howatson had found leisure and opportunity to indulge in other pursuits. In 1863 he was offered, and accepted, a lease of the farm of Crossflatt at a rent of ten shillings for each ewe and hogg kept on it during summer, and which farm he latterly fell heir to. Mr Howatson had also acquired the Dornel Estate, and in 1865 had taken the farms upon it into his own hand, and afterwards adding it to Hall, Glenmuir, Auchinlongford, Tardoes, as well as Duncanziemere, which had belonged to his great grandfather. In 1872 he purchased Glenbuck Estate, and in 1879 Glenbuck House was built, the present handsome edifice replacing the farmhouse which was once the only residence on the Estate. On the occasion of his leaving Daldorch House in 1880, to take up residence in his new home, Mr Howatson was entertained to a public dinner in Catrine. In recent years Mr Howatson also added the neighbouring farm of Monkshead to his estate.

On his acquiring the Glenbuck Estate, Mr Howatson opened up the minerals, and for a time the gascoal produced was in active demand. These were worked for many years by the Cairntable Gas Coal Co. Now they are leased to and being worked by the Burnbank Coal Co.

But it was as a breeder of blackface sheep that Mr Howatson stood out pre-eminently. When he first got possession of Crossflatt he began, by draining and liming, to improve the quality and quantity of the herbage. Then he proceeded to improve the flock of blackface itself, which, when he acquired it, was of no more than secondary quality. His object was to produce a highly-bred strain of blackface sheep of the type best suited for the climate and pasture. In this Mr Howatson was entirely successful, and among other advantages the lambs on Crossflatt came to be woolled all over with so thick a natural coat that the severest weather had no effect on them, while from 1864 to 1875 the average weight of fleece increased from 3¼ to 5½ lbs., and in 1888 it was 6½ lbs., or fully a third more than the average weight of blackface fleeces on similar land in general. With the purchase of Glenbuck estate Mr Howatson's opportunities of improving the blackface sheep increased, the estate having been famous for these 100 years before.

The Glenbuck estate was also greatly improved by Mr Howatson. Draining and liming were carried on upon the land, replacing most of the old bleak heath with a sweet green-sward of natural grasses and clover, while plantations were made on exposed parts, which afforded much needed shelter for the stock. Mr Howatson raised the Glenbuck flock to a National reputation, and at the annual shows of the Highland and Agricultural Society (the premier Scottish Show) he made a record of winning the blue ribbon twelve times in succession with shearling rams—a record that will most probably stand. In 1909 Mr Howatson was waited on and presented with a solid silver salver, candelabra, &c., from the principal breeders of blackface sheep in Scotland, England, Ireland, and the Colonies, in recognition of the interest which he had taken in improving the breed during a period of nearly half a century. In 1903 Mr Howatson let the farm of Crossflatt, the stock going with it, since which the fame of the flock has been worthily upheld by Mr Clark, the lessee. Although Mr Howatson has long retired from bringing forward shearlings for show and sale, that the flock is still very much to the fore is proved by the fact that Glenbuck lambs always fetch high prices, and only last autumn one of the flock brought the highest price ever paid for a blackface lamb.

The late Laird was of a genial and homely disposition, and in his day took a great interest in the work of the Commission of the Peace, the County Council, the Parochial Board, and the School Board, while he also founded the Glenbuck Bursary to assist the local students at the Universities. In 1882 he took the chief part in establishing the existing quoad sacra Parish Church at Glenbuck, while his interest in the local Covenanters is shown by his erection of a fine obelisk in Muirkirk Cemetery to their memory. Mr Howatson also came prominently before the public in 1892 when he was adopted Unionist candidate for South Ayrshire, but on that occasion his health broke down, since which he never ventured to enter the political arena.

Mr Howatson is survived by his widow, a son, and two daughters. The funeral took place to Auchinleck Cemetery, where there was a large concourse of mourner.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For over ten years the *Muirkirk Advertiser* (the recognised local medium for conveying county, parochial, public, business, and other notices to the inhabitants of eastern Ayrshire) has been delivered into every house in the district gratis weekly, although recently many of the readers have kindly contributed towards the "Jam Fund" at the end of each year, to assist in paying paper, cost of delivery, &c., and as a means of showing past appreciation. Probably this order of things would have continued, but owing to present great dearth and consequently high price of paper, combined with the Government's order restricting the use of paper for advertising circulars, it has been found impossible that in the meantime it can be delivered free, this in common with similar publications all over the country.

There were two alternatives—cease publication till happier days, or make a charge for each copy. We have decided on the latter course, being assured that most of the readers will not object to pay for the sheet weekly, considering it wiser to have unrestricted sale than restricted gratis circulation, and with readers and advertisers we leave it to decide whether on its merits it shall stand or fall.

Many of those journals which have not suspended publication, as well as being reduced in size, are doubled in price, but with this latter principle extended to the *Advertiser* it would be a case of—"twice nought is nought." For convenience sake we agree with the mathematician who said that "Twice nowt is bound to be something," and if it is to be something it can't be less than a Halfpenny.

Therefore,

On and after Thursday, 7th March, the price of the *Advertiser* will be One Halfpenny per copy, and the "Jam Fund" automatically ceases.

Probably newsboys will canvass for sales, or copies may be had at the newsagents.

From the March 14th Issue:

"How is it with the *Advertiser*?" is a question that has been put a few times to us during the week. The answer is—"Like Johnny Walker—going strong." The sale surpassed our expectations, almost the usual number being accounted for. For instance, usually 160 to 165 copies were distributed in Glenbuck weekly; last Friday 144 were sold. 31 copies were sent weekly to Torhill; last Thursday night 26 copies were sold. The usual 15 sent to Bankend were all disposed of. With these figures before them, advertisers need have no fear, that more than accounts for a copy into every house in the Parish. Indeed, to give them credit, they never seemed to have any fear, for the ads. rolled in as usual.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

Like all the rest of the world Muirkirk is having an epidemic of influenza. There have been eight deaths during the week October 10), and there are many serious cases still. Last week the day schools were closed for three weeks, and this week the evening continuation classes are also stopped for a time. At Kames Pit alone over 100 men are off work, and in places of business also work is greatly handicapped on account of illness. Extra medical help has been obtained to cope with cases, and all three doctors are hard wrought. The chemist also has had his share of over work at this time. The very wet weather prevailing at present is not conducive to better health conditions, and it is earnestly hoped that very soon the weather clerk will turn off the tap, and that we will again have a time of sunshine and dry weather before winter finally closes in

SNIPPETS

Sergeant Andrew Ross, R.S.F., who is with the Forces in Palestine, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery on the field.

The other morning a Grasshill ewe gave birth to three healthy lambs. Endowed by nature with only two teats, this specimen is in for a busy time, and is doing her bit well in the way of food production.

The new curfew which came into being the other day, has giving promiscuous dancing the order of the knock. Halls heated or lit by electric light or gas must be closed not later than 10.30 p.m. each evening. Will the candle return to its own?

Because of the curtailment of the Golf Course at Auldhouseburn through the requirements of food production, only seven greens were in use.

THE "NEW" RAILWAY"

What was termed the "new" railway when it was laid between ten and twenty years ago, by the Caledonian Railway Company, linking up the existing railway from Lesmahagow to Gallawhistle Pit, Glenbuck, with that at Muirkirk, it is now approaching probably its last phase. The railway was completed, but was never opened for traffic. Some years ago the rails were lifted. These are being re-laid by contractors for the purpose of dismantling the bridges and removing the iron girders from the several inconsiderably viaducts which spans the glens at Crossflatt, Ponesk, and Glenbuck, for, it is said, use in France.

A RARE OCCURRENCE

During the holiday week (July), while Mr Richard Bone, Ladybank, Glenbuck, was taking a walk alongside Ponesk Burn, he was surprised at coming suddenly upon a mother otter with her two young ones. They were on the grass at the side of the burn busily engaged in devouring an eel. When the mother espied Mr Bone she showed true maternal instinct, and showed fight, but the intruder proved the stronger, and all three were dispatched. Mr Bone carried them home and had them skinned. Otters have been observed in the district before, but none have been secured.

Our Silhouette Salon



Mr THOMAS WEIR

Mr Thomas Weir, Victoria Buildings, Muirkirk, is perhaps one of the best-known men in Muirkirk. Born in the Garronhill, he began life as a herd laddie at East Auchenlongford with Captain Clark's grandfather. While still a boy he started with the Muirkirk Iron Co., and was at the stock-taking when the works were purchased by the Eglinton Iron Co., now William Baird & Co., Ltd. For many years Mr Weir was stocktaker at the mill and forge.

It is perhaps in connection with co-operation that the subject of our sketch stands out most prominently in Muirkirk. He was called to the chair of the first meeting held to consider the propriety of starting a Co-operative Society in Muirkirk, he was elected to the provisional Committee which got rules drawn up and raised £72 by threepenny bits, he was the first President, and has been in the place of honour ever since. The Society is in its 137th Quarter, and from this small beginning Mr Weir has seen his protegee rise to a vast concern, the sales for the past year being £64,880, and the assets £27,000.

In his palmy days Mr Weir took his share in public life. He was a member of the old Parochial Board, the Parish Council, and was for five terms a member of the School Board. A Past Master of Lodge St. Thomas Freemasons, Mr Weir is still at the head of some of the higher masonic orders. One of the oldest Freemasons in Scotland, in 1911 Mr Weir celebrated his Jubilee as a Freemason, and he was presented with his portrait by the local Lodge. Mr Weir is an enthusiastic admirer of Burns, and has several times proposed "The Immortal Memory." He delights in the Doric. Owing to his long connection with the place, Mr Weir is one of the village historians, and, although not so "yaw!" as of yore is still able to go about and enjoy life. Long may he continue.

TO OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS

(From the Oct 7 Issue)

It is with much regret that we have to announce to-day the discontinuance for the present of the *Muirkirk Advertiser*.

Many of our friends are aware of an interest we have in a printing business in Girvan, and this has claimed our personal attention for many months, owing to the two principal members of the staff there having been requisitioned for the Army.

We accepted the position as a wartime measure cheerfully, and matters might have continued indefinitely in this way, but now the inroads of cupid on our staff at Muirkirk, directly and indirectly, whereby we are being deprived of the services of two assistants here, have left us no alternative but to suspend publication. Competent assistance is not procurable, and there is a limit to human endurance.

Publication will cease for the present after next week, so that in the next issue advertisers will have an opportunity of making any public announcement as to the future they may consider necessary or advisable.

And in the following Issue:

EDITORIAL

As mentioned in these columns last week, this forms the last issue of the *Advertiser* for the present. This is a step we regret very much to take, and we feel such regret will be shared by a very large majority of our readers, but we are powerless to avert it through the calls of the military authorities and the inroads of Cupid on our staff.

During the eleven years of existence, the *Advertiser* has been read in almost every home in the Parish, formerly as a gratis and latterly as a halfpenny sheet. That it was wanted is proved by the fact that since the price became a halfpenny practically the same number was printed as when it was delivered into every house free, and we know that it has found its way all over the world, and been appreciated at that. We have to thank all who have assisted us in word and deed in running the paper, and we have had many friends from the outset.

We believe the *Advertiser* is unique in form and in the way it has been conducted, and in the latter sense we feel the pain of parting as if separating from friends. Whether it will be resumed by these or other hands when peace again reigns upon the earth rests in the lap of the future, but this at least can be said, that in after years the issues of the past decade will form an interesting and authentic page in the history of the Parish.

Since the above was in type we have received overtures from influential parties with regard to the continuance of the *Advertiser*, and these offered every assistance in their power. The trouble is in getting the practical work accomplished, and that requires no little skill. After further consultation it has been found impossible to continue it under the circumstances. We have to thank our friends for their kind expressions of appreciation of the *Advertiser*.

(No more issues were printed in 1918, although the Parish war Relief Committee did publish a monthly two-sided sheet, mostly pertaining to the war effort).

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1918

(No Births were advertised in 1918)

DEATHS

BROWN.—At 32 Office Row, Glenbuck, on 30th December, 1917, wee Jim, aged 1 year 7 months.

PARK.—At North Bottoms on 8th January, Archibald Park, aged 25 years.

MITCHELL.—Killed in action in Egypt on 28th December, 1917, Andrew Mitchell, aged 21 years.

WILSON.—At Glasgow Road on 8th and 10th January, Andrew and Mary Wilson, twin children, aged 3 months.

TELFER.—At Ayr on 24th February, James Veitch Telfer, aged 61 years.

BUCHANAN.—At Upper Wellwood Farm on 8th March, Thomas W. Buchanan.

DRYLIE.—At 16 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 10th March, Alexander Drylie, aged 69 years.

WALLACE.—At Ayr Hospital on 4th March, George Wallace, aged 19 years, of The Hall, Glenbuck.

CALLAN.—At Fairmount, Glasgow Road, on 16th March, James Telfer, aged one week.

HAMILTON.—At Rouen, France, from wounds received in action, on 26th April, James Hamilton, aged 24 years (of Glenbuck).

HENDERSON.—At New York on 17th April, Annie Watt Whyte, aged 39 years.

MILLAR.—At Renfrew on 17th May, William Miller, aged 81 years (late of Garronhill).

THOMSON.—At Gosport on 23rd May, Stoker James Thomson, aged 18 years (of Blackside, Muirkirk).

BELL.—Killed by shell fire in France on 26th May, Thomas Bell, aged 24 years (eldest son of Charles P. Bell).

DUNSMORE.—In France on 2nd June, Thomas Dunsmore, aged 21 years (of 40 Springhill Terrace).

DRYLIE.—At Fauldhouse from illness received on active service on 4th June, William Drylie, aged 26 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Hedgegrove on 22nd June, Robert Dempster, aged 45 years.

MARSHALL.—At Kilmarnock, Grace Thomson, aged 72 years (of Furnace Road).

LIDLAW.—Died from wounds in France, Peter Ferguson Laidlaw, aged 22 years (of Railway Buildings).

COLVILLE.—Killed in action on 30th August, John Colville (of Victoria Buildings).

DORNAN.—At Victoria Buildings on 10th September, Rachel Morley, aged 61 years.

CLEMENT.—Killed in action in Salonica on 4th September, John Clement (of Smallburn).

DENNIS.—At Glasgow on 21st September, Mary Wilson, aged 36 years (of Smallburn).

SOWDEN.—Killed in France on 26th Aug., W. Sowden, aged 32 years (of 54 Ladybank Terrace, Glenbuck).

TORBETT.—Killed in action in France on 27th August, William Torbett, aged 20 years (of Smallburn).

WOOD.—Died of wounds in Salonica on 23rd September, James Wood, aged 25 years (of Inglewood, Muirkirk).

EASTON.—Killed in action in France on 27th September, William N. Easton, aged 21 years (of Bankend, Muirkirk).

ANDERSON.—At Garronhill on 4th October, James Anderson, aged 55 years.

McCARTNEY.—At Madeleine Place on 12th October, Wee James, aged 2 years and 10 months.

SLOAN.—Killed in action in France on 25th August, Archie Sloan, aged 21 years (of Ronaldo Place).

YOUNG.—At Springhill on 17th October, John Richmond, aged 14 years.

BUCHANAN.—At Wellwood Street on 22nd October, Neil Buchanan, aged 1 year and 10 months.

MILLAR.—At Grasshill Row, Glenbuck on 17th October, James Millar.

SAMSON.—At Kirkgreen on 22nd October, David Samson, aged 19 years.

STEVEN.—At 37 Springhill Terrace on 21st October, Agnes Kilpatrick, aged 31 years.

THOMSON.—At Furnace Road on 21st October, Isabella Marshall, aged 8 years and 10 months.

MARRIAGES

JAS. STEIN to MARY VALLANCE on 21st January.

RICHARD CAMPBELL to MARY WALLACE on 18th January.

A. DA PRATO to MARY ROSS on 22nd February.

W. H. LAIDLAW to BESSIE KENNEDY on 26th May.

DANIEL EASTON to JANE ANDERSON on 12th June.

Mr WILLIAM PEARSON

Owner of Pearson's Drapery and Clothing House, which was situated at the corner of Main Street and Glasgow Road, until recently occupied by Trotters.

CHAPTER TWELVE

(1919)

BACK TO NORMALITY

The first issue of 1919 did not appear till 22nd May, and by then the War in Europe had ended and Muirkirk, like every other community in the land began to get back to a normal life with the return of the young soldiers putting new energy into local organisations. The Editorial of that issue read as follows:—

It is with mixed pleasure we to-day return to old times so far as the issuing of the Advertiser is concerned. Since last it was published there have been great happenings, doubtless the greatest of these for the majority of the people being the end (or practically the end) of the war that has ravaged Europe for years, and affects every household in a more or less degree.

The Advertiser has been much missed, not only in the way of recording and disseminating news in the locality, but as a medium for making public and other announcements, its columns being now the recognised medium for such.

So far as news is concerned, while it is intended to keep pace with the times, we hope to record events that have happened since last October (when the paper was stopped temporarily, owing to the calls of Cupid and the Country), and thus link together local history. These columns will be as readable and racy as time and opportunity permit, and altogether an endeavour will be made to have it so that to be without the Advertiser will be to be out of date. We invite the co-operation of our friends and readers in helping in any way to make the sheet interesting, and any item of news will be welcomed, while a hint as to future events will receive attention.

And now for the "intimations," or rather, the intimation. Owing to the increased cost of labour, the high price of material, the enhanced value and up-keep of machinery, as also the use of a better class of paper so that, when occasions offer, photographs may be reproduced, it has been found necessary, in the meantime at least, to charge one penny per copy for the Advertiser.

WAR EFFORT

The final meeting of the Parish War Relief Fund Committee was held on 6th May, when a full report of the activities of the Committee since the war started was given, and which proved to be very satisfactory indeed, and the people of the Parish were warmly thanked for their generosity over the years. It was decided to augment a Welcome Home Fund, and a meeting would be called in connection with a memorial worthy of the Parish for those who lost their lives in the great conflict.

THE BELGIANS' APPRECIATION

On the eve of the departure of the Belgians from Muirkirk, Mr Young, treasurer of the Parish War Relief Fund, was the recipient of the following note and poem, which explain themselves:—

Dear Mr Young—We desire to thank the Belgian Refugees Committee of Muirkirk for all they have done for us, and also for the kindness they have showed us. We would be very much obliged to you if you would kindly let them know this.

WE'LL REMEMBER YOU

When fire and sword made desolate
The land we loved so well,
And savage Huns, on murder bent,
Changed Heaven into hell;
When exiled from our Flanders home
We crossed the ocean blue,
Sweet peace we found in this fair town—
Ah! we'll remember you.

Your loving kindness bridged the gulf
That lay 'twixt us and joy,
And mercy raised a harvest rich
Of love without alloy.
Our hearts, drawn to our Belgian homes,
While bidding you adieu,
Still feel a pang of real regret
As we remember you.

Let then the dead we leave with you,
In graveyard's hallowed soil,
Be pledge of lasting gratitude,
For all your ceaseless toil.
Our babes here born, as they grow up,
And we all Belgians true,
Will ever breathe this grateful prayer—
May God remember you.

EMIEL INGELBINCK AND FAMILY

Kames Cottages, 6/3/19

(The Inglebinck Family kept their ties with Muirkirk and revisited the village on many occasions, latterly to the home of the late Mr Tom Stevens and Mary).

THE HEATWAVE

We are presently (May) enjoying a spell of very warm weather. For the past fortnight the season has been more like mid summer, and exceptional mid summer weather at that. Contrast the fortnight immediately preceding this one, and you will find that part of it was like mid winter, and exceptionally bad at that. One of the worst days of snow (Sunday, 27th April) we have had all winter was thrown into it, a day on which fifty lambs were lost on one farm in the Parish alone. Oh, the vagaries of our climate!

SNIPPETS

Mr James Strickland, who had been Manager at Grasshill Colliery, Glenbuck, was appointed Manager of Ladysmith Colliery, near Maryport, owned by the Whitehaven Colliery Co., Ltd.

Piper David Hendry, Old Terrace, won first (gold medal) for strathspey and reel playing, and first (gold medal) for march playing at Catrine Sports; and at Auchinleck David won the silver cup in strathspey and reel playing.

George Harrison started a Motor Hiring business from the Eglinton Arms Garage.

Mr John Smith McGill, Gas Manager, was transferred to a similar post at Stewarton, and Mr James Young (Kilmaurs) appointed manager at Muirkirk.

The Peace Day celebrations took the form of a fancy dress parade and sports day at Kameshill Park. A similar gala day was held at Glenbuck.

The last meeting of the local Parish Council, before being taken over by the County Authority, was held in October.

Mr John Mair, Slag View, Smallburn, and John Kelly (44 years) of Kilmarnock, were killed in an explosion at the Ammonia Works belonging to Messrs Wm. Baird & Coy.

THE CINEMA

Saturday first (2nd November) finishes, for the present at any rate, Mr James Simpson's connection with picture-goers so far as the Temperance Hall is concerned, and considerably public regret is occasioned thereby. For some time he has been negotiating for the purchase of the Dundas Hall, but that, too, seems to have come to an end. Mr Simpson, considering that the price—£2,000—suggested by the managers as a figure which they would be prepared to put before the congregation, is prohibitive as far as he is concerned. Mr Simpson is not without hope, however, that he will be screening before the Muirkirk public his usual quality of pictures before long, and with that end in view his plant is meantime to be stored in the town.

Note.—The Hall Committee continued to show pictures on their own behalf at the Temperance Hall.

BUILDING

The Mason trade in Muirkirk is going strong. This week the local Lodge are starting 46 Apprentices. There was a talk of drawing on some of their cuddies to help the goat. The strain is evidently recognised in official quarters, for it is intimated that if the goat is alive it may be on exhibition at the bazaar. It should prove a draw, eh?

BAZAAR

A three-day bazaar, organised by Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, was held in the Drill Hall, in an effort to raise money to pay off the building cost of the new masonic temple. This was easily accomplished, with the total sum raised amounting to £737.

END OF SCHOOL BOARD

The final meeting of the local School Board was held in May before its duties were taken over by the new Education authority. A school census gave interesting reading:—

There are at present 1090 children in the parish between 5 and 14 years of age, of whom 563 are males and 527 females; last year there was a total of 1127, of whom 579 were males and 548 females. Of these 904 reside in Muirkirk district, 166 in Glenbuck district, and 20 in Wellwood district; last year the numbers were 938, 158, and 31 respectively. Numbers attending various schools:—

Main Street	239
Furnace Road.....	506
Glenbuck	147
Wellwood	16
St. Thomas R.C	46
Cumnock	17
Lanark.....	2

The slight fall in the total was partially accounted for by the repatriation of the Belgians.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

As there seems to be a misunderstanding as to the ownership of the Loch AT GLENBUCK, I take this opportunity of making it known to the public that when the Catrine Cotton Company ceased to use it as a reservoir, it was purchased by my late husband from the late Earl of Home, and has been frequently stocked with trout by him since, therefore the Loch, Fish and adjoining land are PRIVATE PROPERTY.

M. HOWATSON.

June, 1919

PEACE

The signing of the Peace was very peacefully heralded in Muirkirk, only a few flags being out. The signing was a foregone conclusion, as Jerry couldn't help it. To most people the signing of the armistice was of much greater moment, and caused a different thrill.

DROUGHT

Notwithstanding that there have been several refreshing showers lately there is still a great scarcity of water in the reservoir, and it has been found necessary, for safety's sake, to have the water turned off the town every night.

LICENSING

Alexander Simpson, Bridge Street, Muirkirk, was granted the transfer of a public-house licence for the Black Bottle Tavern, Muirkirk. An application by Henry T. Inkster, Rosebank, Carluke, for the transfer of a public-house certificate for the Douglas Arms (across from Nursery School), Muirkirk, was refused.



Mr JOE MUIR

American newspapers to hand refer to the fact that "Joe Muir, one of the best known of Wheatland County's pioneer residents this week acquired 1,600 additional acres of land in the Hepley district, at a cost of 24,000 dollars (roughly £5,000). This makes a total of 12,000 acres of the finest ranch land in the State now owned by Mr Muir, who is one of the State's leading sheepmen." Also "Jeremiah Williams and Co., of Boston, Mass., were the successful bidders for the 38,000 lb. wool clip of Joe Muir, one of the big sheepmen of the district, paying 60½ cents per pound for the whole lot. Representatives of four firms bid upon the clip, three turning in the same bid. The successful bidder was decided by the flipping of a coin, with chance decreeing in favour of Williams Co. Mr Muir's clip is a very choice long staple wool."

It will be interesting to our readers to learn that the Joe Muir referred to above is the eldest son of the late Mr David Muir, sub-postmaster at Glenbuck, and of Mrs Muir, still residing there, and a brother of the local motor boss, so that he is an Ayrshire man, and, to be still more definite—a Glenbuck man. Mr Muir left his native village about 37 years ago (1882), when quite a lad, previous to which he was employed on farms in the district. He left home with the greatest asset a child can inherit, viz., a sound constitution, and the valuable asset of robust health, but with very little in the way of worldly gear. On arrival in the States he was employed as a shepherd in Montana, and in time got a little sheep ranch of his own, since which, through grit and energy he has risen to be the owner of one of the biggest ranches in the States, as exemplified by the fact that he raised 5,000 this season. Mr Muir visited his homeland about 26 years ago. He is a widower with a family.

PROMOTION FOR MUIRKIRK MAN

Under the heading of "Police Promotion," the Manchester Guardian, mentions the fact that "Inspector Maxwell, chief clerk in the Manchester Police Force, was yesterday promoted by the Watch Committee to the rank of Chief Inspector." Mr Maxwell is a Muirkirk man, and, previous to joining the force at Manchester some 15 years ago he was employed in the mines here, and, as the result of grit and energy, has been promoted step by step, and now holds the responsible position of Chief Inspector, although still a young man. His mother (Mrs McDonald) resides at Kirkgreen.

Rev. C. A. MacKENZIE BRINGS HIS BRIDE HOME TO GLENBUCK



Mr McKenzie is a son of the manse, his father being the late Dr MacKenzie of Summertown U.F. Church, Govan. He was educated at Glasgow Academy and University, passing through the Divinity Hall of the Established Church. Acting first as assistant at

Lamington, then at Strathaven, it was while at the latter he received the call to Glenbuck, where he

was ordained in January, 1895. Since his advent to the upland village, Mr MacKenzie has had a very quiet and peaceful existence, and has been withal assiduous in his attention to his flock, being concerned and interested in their material and spiritual welfare, and obeying the biblical injunction to rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn.

Just as Mr MacKenzie is a son of the manse, so Mrs MacKenzie is a daughter of the manse, her parent being the Rev. John and Mrs Bain of Wilsontown U.F. Manse, her maternal grandfather being the late Mr Paul, coalmaster. Mrs MacKenzie rejoices in an excellent reputation in her own district, and will no doubt be an acquisition to the village. As she is frank of manner, of a bright disposition, and full of life, the good folks of Glenbuck would, if they tried, probably find, as the whale did with Jonah, that a good thing simply can't be kept down. Mrs MacKenzie will soon know that the Glenbuck heart is both kind and warm, and we welcome her to the Parish.



NEW DOCTOR

Since no purchaser of the practice of the late Dr Carruthers could be found, it has been generally felt that one doctor could not cope with the necessities of the Parish, especially in the event of an epidemic, and matters took a definite form a few weeks ago, when the trade organisations of the Parish advertised for a medical man.

As a result, eleven applications were received. A short leet of three was selected, and yesterday, after an interview, Dr John Cameron (M.B., Ch.B. of Glasgow University) was appointed. Dr Cameron comes with excellent credentials. A young man, prior to joining the navy during the war (from which he was demobbed only about three weeks ago) he acted as assistant to Dr Lindsay at Kirkmuirhill. Doubtless Dr Cameron will find plenty of work here, although it is expected that a week or two will elapse before he takes up his duties.

Our Silhouette Salon



**Mr JOHN YOUNG, J.P.,
SPRINGHILL**

Mr Young is a Hurlford boy and a Muirkirk man. Following in his father's footsteps he entered the employ of Messrs Wm. Baird & Co., and was first engaged in the Hurlford office, then at Lugar, and, on the transfer of the late Mr Kilpatrick, was appointed cashier at the works here over eleven years ago (about 1908).

Since his advent to Muirkirk Mr Young has taken a large share in the public life of the town. He was the last Chairman of the School Board; he is a member of the Parish Council, representative to the District Committee of the County Council, and President of many local societies. Mr Young is an elder of the Parish Church, an ardent teetotaler, and a Justice of the Peace for the County of Ayr. As Honorary Treasurer of the Parish war relief Fund Committee, he has handled the many thousands of pounds connected herewith.

Mr Young's principal hobby is horticulture, while he is a music lover, and a keen golfer (when time permits, for he is a very busy man). He is the stock chairman at local concerts &c., and is all out for everything that tends to the benefit of the people.

SERGEANT JAMES LYLE

Probably no man is better known on our streets than Sergeant Lyle. Tall and erect, his is a striking figure.

The Sergeant is an Ayrshire man, and in early life was a pit engineman at Rankinston, for which district he still has a lurking liking. Thirty-three years ago he joined the Force. Over thirteen of these he spent at Saltcoats, and on his transfer here some ten years ago he was presented by the inhabitants of the coastal town with a silver inkstand and a purse containing twenty sovereigns, not by way of showing their delight at getting rid of him, but as a tangible token of appreciation and respect.

Since his advent to the parish the Sergeant has proved himself to be an able officer and a peace-loving man, and has acted as lawyer, adviser, and friend to all. He never looks for trouble, that comes along of itself, and would rather prevent than detect crime. As arbiter on the rights and wrongs of the people he enjoys the confidence and respect of all.



FOOTBALL

During the war years little or no football was played in the village, but with the ending of hostilities in Europe, and the young blood returning to the Parish, a renewed interest was taken in the world of football.

The Athletic Football Club was resurrected, and an enthusiastic Committee formed as follows:—

- Hon. President Mr John YOUNG, J.P.
- President Mr ALEX. SIMPSON
- Secretary Mr John BARRIE
- Treasurer Mr JOHN MOFFAT
- Committee Sam Rae, A. Gourlay
Matt. Anderson, James Wilson
Willie Colthart, William Kay
and George Gebbie.

An ex-Muirkirk player, John Crosbie, who rose to the senior ranks was capped against Ireland.

Another well-known Athletic player, John Duke, signed for Grimbsy.

No Ayrshire League was formed that season, but several Cup Competitions were arranged, including the Scottish Junior Cup. In the first round Muirkirk drew 3-3 with Catrine Thistle, and won the replay 2-1.

The Athletic team was:—Park; Williamson, Welsh; James Anderson, James Davidson, Wallace; Andrew Davidson, John Davidson, McNair, Murdoch, Shirkey.

In the 2nd Round Athletic beat Lugar 2—0, and accounted for Annbank Primrose in the 3rd round by 2 goals to 1.

The village was buzzing with excitement when the draw for the 4th round was made, the Athletic having to make the hazardous journey to meet the strong going Blantyre Celtic (more in next Chapter).

VILLAGE ON OIL

The old song has it—"You never miss the water till the well runs dry." So it is that you never miss the gas till you can't get it. For some time past there have been many complaints as to the gas served up by the local Gas Company, and they have been subjected to not a little criticism. The lid was put on Tuesday afternoon, when public intimation was made that the gas would be turned off at the works at six o'clock, and no definite announcement made as to when it would be turned on again. "It's an ill wind that blows naebody guid," and a few minutes afterwards paraffin oil and candles were in great demand. It turns out that, unknowingly, part of the plant had become caked up, and this effect will gradually have to be undone. This to a large extent is said to be responsible for the atmosphere of sulphur that presently pervades where gas is used. Happening as it has done during the shortest days, the strain is all the greater, but it is expected that, with care, the necessity of turning off the gas, will now be, to a large extent, avoided. With the lengthening day the call will not be so great.—The directors of the Gas Company crave that customers use as little gas as possible meantime, so as to conserve the supply, and in return everything will be done to give efficient service until such time as matters can be rectified.



The Boot with a Guarantee.
' THE REGENT '
Footwear for Men.

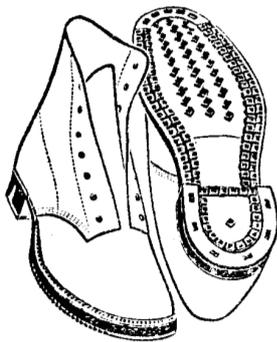
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 FOR
WET WORKINGS & ROUGHEST WEAR.

MURRAY'S BOOT SHOP,
 Main Street, **MUIRKIRK.**

LOCAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

STEIN.—At Ivy Cottage, Smallburn, on 11th June, to Mr and Mrs James Sein, a daughter.

VALLANCE.—At Ivy Cottage, Smallburn on 22nd October, to Mr and Mrs Robert Vallance, a son.

MARRIAGES

ROBT. GRAHAM to AGNES BLACKWOOD on 2nd July.

JAMES YOUNG to ELLEN TAYLOR on 23rd July.

JOHN THOMSON to JEANIE TAYLOR on 2nd September.

DEATHS

LIVINGSTONE.—At 14 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 14th May; Wee Geordie.

CRAIG.—At Wellwood on 4th June, Annie Park Fairbairn.

McQUAKER.—In Egypt of malaria-jaundice, on 22nd June, Gunner G. W. McQuaker, aen 21 years.

YOUNG.—Accidently drowned in Egypt on 28th June, Daniel Young (of Furnace Road), aen 26 years.

THOMSON.—At Blackside on 10th July, Samuel Thomson, shepherd, aged 70 Years.

MURRAY.—At Ayr on 11th August, David Murray, aged 74 years.

BROWN.—At Troon on 21st August, Maggie Brown, aged 6 months, of Wellwood Street.

MOFFAT.—At Kilmarnock on 31st August, Bella Ross, aged 25 years, of Main Street.

McCULLOCH.—At Dalmellington on 2nd September, Euphemia Girdwood, aged 19 years, of 20 Old Terrace, Muirkirk.

NICOL.—At Aird's Mill Cottage on 23rd September, Eliza Rogers, aged 79 years.

McLUCKIE.—At Glespin on 27th September, Ann Russell, aged 21 years.

CALLAN.—At Clark's Buildings, Main Street, on 8th October, Agnes Callan, aged 83 years.

BROWN.—At Kilmarnock on 16th October, William Brown, aged 33 years, of 32 Office Row, Glenbuck.

HANNAH.—At Glasgow on 24th October, Wee John, aged 7 months, of 50 Kames Row.

LIVINGSTONE.—At Cumnock on 30th October, Wee Alex, aged 2 years 11 months.

NICOL.—At Muirkirk on 1st November, James Nicil, Sen., retired forester, aged 84 years.

SAMSON.—At Madeleine Place on 14th November, Wee John, aged 4 years and 9 months.

CREARIE.—At Glengarnock on 11th December, Joseph Cearie, aged 45 years.

HOGG.—At Main Street on 16th December, Margaret McCall, aged 72 years.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

(1920)

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Two Hogmanay Golden Wedding anniversaries were reported in January 8 Issue, and we quote:-

Mr & MRS JOHN HODGE

This couple, of the Baird Institute, were married at New Cumnock. They took up house in the Castle, an old white-washed two-storey building that occupied ground on which the Ironworks Institute now stands (presently the Kames Pursuit Centre). From there the worthy couple migrated to the Square; they were for 10 years in the Temperance Hall. Later Mr Hodge accepted the position of caretaker of the Baird Institute, a position he has held for the last 15 years, and still worthily fills. Mr Hodge was a roller at the mills at the Ironworks.

MR & MRS JAMES McCARTNEY

This couple are both natives of Muirkirk. Mr McCartney first saw the light at Engine Row (locally known as Wellwood Pit), and was later taken to Wellwood Row, where he started work in the pit before he was ten years of age, just about the time the works were taken over by the Eglinton Iron Company, now Messrs William Baird & Co. Mr McCartney next went to Lugar to work as an ironstone miner. The young couple removed to Wellwood Row, and later to Glenbuck, Mr McCartney being employed in the pits there, and finally fifteen years ago came to the Waulkmill, only last year taking up residence in Glasgow Road.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar has kindly furnished us with the following record of local statistics. The birthrate is down, unfortunately, and the deathrate is also down, fortunately. While it may be difficult to find a reason for the former, the epidemic of influenza in the autumn of 1918 probably accounts for the latter.

	1919	1918
Births	109	126
Deaths	54	71
Marriages	30	28

Of the deaths, 12 were under the age of 1 year; between 1 and 20, 4; between 20 and 40, 1; between forty and 60, 9; between 60 and 70, 5; between 70 and 80, 15; between 80 and 90, 8. It will be seen that over half were over 70 years of age, so that Muirkirk is showing a good record as a health resort. Four of the deaths took place in Glenbuck during the year, none having occurred there from June till November inclusive

NEW J.P.

Among the list of new J.P.'s for the county just published is the name of Mr David S. Stitt, Madeleine Place

SCHOOL SALARIES

In 1920 a new scale for school salaries was introduced, and the following table shows how this has effected the salaries of local teachers—

Furnace Road School

	Old Salary	New Salary
F. J. Gordon	£290	£501*
C. P. Bell	210	360
J. G. Richmond	210	360
I. S. Aird	150	316
J. Sunderland	130	240
M. Aird	135	230
M. A. Weir	105	145
E. Nisbet	115	170
I. S. Addison	120	230
Mrs Wilson	200	210
H. J. Blythe	95	145
M. S. Faid		180
James McIntyre		116
G. Walker	78	90

Main Street School

M. A. Bruce	180	360
J. F. Ross	125	300
A. W. Smith	130	210
A. W. Templeton	110	150
Mrs Fettes	100	160
E McIntyre	105	145

Glenbuck School

John Rodger	260	394*
J. Bain	150	280
P. Scott	105	155
C. Forsyth	100	150

Wellwood School

S. Miller	110	265
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(*) Includes Free House

THE LATE MR JAMES TELFER

Last week the grave closed over the mortal remains of Mr James Telfer, one who, though not a native, had by long residence here been a familiar figure both in the "toon" and "ower the water." Born in Douglas 74 years ago, he spent 53 years of his life in Muirkirk. He became an apprentice blacksmith at the Burn, Crawfordjohn, where he married Janet McKie. Mr Telfer came to Muirkirk as blacksmith at the Crossflatt Pit—long disused and completely forgotten—and on its stoppage went to the Ironworks Smithy. After 49 years service there he retired four years ago on account of failing health.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

Mr W. Millar from Douglas, took over the Central Grocery Stores previous run by Mr John Kerr, and which was situated opposite Stilefoot.

OLD PITS

As a result of heavy rain last week (Aug.), several old pit mouths were opened on the South Moor beyond Springhill

THIRD CAIRN FOR CAIRNTABLE



At a public meeting on 10th July it was agreed to proceed with the building of a memorial on Cairntable in memory of those who gave their lives in the Great war. This would not be a rival to the cenotaph, but an addition.

The following inscription would be cut on a stone in the Cairn—"Erected in memory of the 87 men of Muirkirk Parish who fell in, and also to the honour of the 264 men and 11 women who returned from, the Great War, 1914-1918.

Dates were arranged for the building, and the Ironworks flag would be hoisted and kept flying during the working hours, so that unless the flag is flying by noon each day no building will take place. This was considered necessary because of the vagaries of the weather.

From the 5th August Issue

After three weeks of strenuous toil an imposing cairn has been raised on Cairntable. The new cairn is built to commemorate the Great War, the men who fell in it, and the women and men who safely returned. It has been built by the voluntary labour of several citizens—girls and boys, men and women. Some were skilled builders, working under the direction of Dugald Baird, Esq., manager of the works here, and it is greatly owing to the zeal and determination which he and Messrs J. Young and J. F. Porter displayed that the work advanced so rapidly.

The Memorial is conical in shape, built on light-house lines, the outside stones locking each other so that unless malicious force be used the cairn may remain as it is for generations to come. It is built of sandstone of a high density, and thoroughly waterproof. The stones were got close at hand, tons being quarried by powerful workers, most of whom were young men.

The monument is wholly in Ayrshire, on Miss Baird's property, although on the south it attains to the county march. In one sense this is a pity, as only the upper half is visible from Muirkirk. Both of the old cairns are situate on the county march, and appear on the skyline from our village, and there is a distance of 55 yards between them. But at the western end the boundary line trends quickly S.W. by W. for about a dozen yards to where the new cairn is, and this throws it behind our sky-line. A full view is obtained of the memorial from what we might term the "Happy Valley" side, but visitors and visits there are few and far between.

Cairntable and our Parish were surveyed in 1850 by a staff of Government men, under Captain Bayly of the Royal Engineers. The writer knew an old man of 35 years ago (Mr David Ross), who was one of the local assistants to the surveyors, and carted their effects to the top of the hill. He said two of the sappers waited at Cairntable nearly six weeks (in a tent), in an order to get a glimpse of Scafell, a mountain in Cumberland, for trigonometrical purposes. One clear Sunday morning this was obtained, and the men left immediately thereafter.

Cairntable is 1944.4 feet above sea level. The highest point now is the top of the new cairn, which is fully two feet higher than the others. The cairn is 25 feet in base diameter, and 16 feet in vertical height. The volume is therefore about 2614 cubic feet, and the weight of stone about 146 tons. This is a vast amount to be handled and put in position in a few days by an average of about 30 workers.

On Sunday, 15th August, a dedication service took place at the Memorial Cairn, when it was estimated that a crowd of around 500 attended. Rev. John Henderson presided, and Rear Admiral Sir James Fergusson, R.N., K.C.M.G., C.B., performed the unveiling ceremony and deposited the two caskets. The larger case, he said, contained a scroll with the names of the men and women of the Parish who served in the War, while a cross was placed opposite the name of each who fell. In the smaller case were the names of those who assisted on at least two occasions to build the Cairn, four copies of the "Advertiser" narrating the cairn building progress, and a shilling given by old Tom Weir as his mite seeing he was not now physically fit to make the journey up the hill and help with the work. Rev. John Henderson said it was his honour and privilege to dedicate the cairn, which he did in prayer.

SEEN AND HEARD

Henry Thomas Inkster was granted a public house licence for the Douglas Arms.

A miners' ballot on the Government's pay offer showed 571 in favour, and 141 against. Another grievance in October saw the miners on strike for two weeks.

Mr Thomas Floyd published his book of poems entitled "Cairntable Rhymes," at a cost of 3/- each

The early "yoke" on the working Saturday at the pits is now an established fact—start at six, and stop at one.

EDITORIAL

The War Memorial

In our advertising columns the formal launch of the Memorial effort is made to-day (9th April). It is made with a stout heart. The doings of the Parish have been held up as an example during the war in various ways. Where else was the Government's allowance to soldiers' wives and dependants considerably augmented by some shillings per week through local subscriptions, their rents and taxes paid, &c? From where were parcels sent to the soldiers like those from here? Nowhere! The raising of the money was done systematically, and no one is a whit the poorer, while we stay-at-homes have the consolation of knowing in our inmost hearts that we did our best for the soldiers and their dependants, and, further, that it was appreciated.

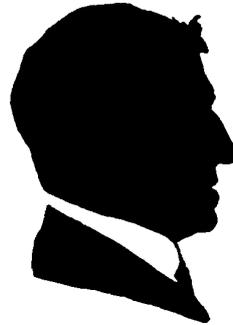
The war to a large extent is over, and the great majority of our men are home again to kith and kin. But while we recognised, and did, our duty to the living, we have also a duty towards the dead. Very many of our homes are bereft, and the other members, alas, know only too well the cost of war, and the loss it has entailed to them. Only those who have been affected can fully realise that loss; friends may, and do sympathise, but they cannot realise the comparative emptiness of life to many sufferers. We have a debt to discharge towards the dead. That debt can never be adequately discharged, but it can partly be. We now have the opportunity of showing in a tangible way our appreciation of the efforts of those heroes of our own flesh and blood, and to hand down their names to history and future generations—to have them carved in stone. This has been made comparatively easy through the gift of a public park by Miss Baird—the dream of the Muirkirk people realised. As well, £250 is promised from Wellwood House towards the cenotaph and the laying out of the park—surely a magnificent gift.

As will be seen from the formal appeal, £2,000 is required for the Memorial (cenotaph and park). The Committee lay themselves out to raise £1,000 in cash, and to leave the other half to be gathered by indirect means later. One good pull should land the first £1,000 if all put their hands to the rope as they can; the other £1,000 should be got easily. It is computed that, with larger donations from some, ten shillings per worker, or one pound per household, will realise the first £1,000, and these figures are given as a basis for subscriptions. You can arrange with the collectors to give by instalments or in a lump sum. You'll get full credit. Think it over; pull your purse to that amount, and have a good conscience. That we have the best of the bargain no one will deny.

GLENBUCK GOLDEN WEDDING

1870—1920

Mr and Mrs Robert Lindsay have just celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in Glenbuck. The Lindsays are well known and highly respected all over the district, and although Mrs Lindsay has been in indifferent health for some time, both she and her gudeman are bright and cheery.



It was at the age of eleven years that Mr Lindsay started as a herd laddie in the Parish of Carmichael, and at the age of fourteen engaged himself to "Parishholm," where he remained for a number of years. There he married the lady who has

been described to us as "the bonnie lass o' Wanlockhead," and entered the service of the late Mr Charles Howatson, first at Daldorch House, Catrine, and afterwards at the House of Glenbuck. For the long period of forty-eight years Mr Lindsay faithfully served Mr Howatson, first as a coachman and then as chauffeur, until death removed a kind and considerate master. Mr Lindsay still remains in the service of the family, as chauffeur, having altogether being over fifty years in his present situation. When the day of transition from the carriage-and-pair to the motor car arrived, Mr Lindsay, though no longer a man in his teens, rose to the occasion and tackled the wheel, and may now be seen piloting the family car through the busy streets of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and in this and other ways he enjoys the confidence of the Howatson family.



During the war the worthy couple had four sons serving their King and Country, and it is to be regretted that one made the supreme sacrifice. Two kind and thoughtful daughters brighten the home at Glenbuck, while one is in business in London.

A LIFE-LINK SNAPPED

By the death of Mrs Swann, Wellwood Street, on 9th December, a link with the past has been suddenly snapped. Mrs Swann, who was 96 years of age was a native of Muirkirk, having been born at Megslea (near the sand Pit on the Golf Course). Mr Swann, by whom Mrs Swann was predeceased about six years ago first saw the light at the old Coutburn Row, a little past Springhill. Mr Swann was a miner, but by hard study qualified to be a mine manager, and acted in that capacity at Newmains and elsewhere. He was conductor of the local Parish Brass Band. Last week Mrs Swann was the head of five living generations, all residing in Muirkirk. They had a family of twelve, and there are ten great-great-grandchildren, and in all something like 150 descendants. It is a most unique record.

"THE BURNING QUESTION" ENDS IN SMOKE

In 1920 a lengthy correspondence took place between Mr Durham Bertram, Glenbuck, and Mr James Donaghy, Muirkirk, both dancing teachers in their own right, as to which one held the title "The Champion Clog Dancer of Ayrshire." As far as we know the dispute was never settled. The above cartoon is how the Editor felt about it all!

THE PAVILION (10th June Issue)

By this time next week it is hoped by the management to have the new picture house, which is in course of erection at Smallburn (behind Kinloch-Anderson factory), and has been named "The Pavillion," open to the public. The building, which is rapidly approaching completion, extends to 93 feet in length and 35 feet in width, while it has accommodation for 700 persons, including a balcony of 190. Each patron will be accommodated with a comfortable tip-up chair. The operating room, in which there will be two machines, is outside the hall, while the engine room is in a separate building. Mr Simpson says he is determined to supply the goods. The prices range from 5d to 1/8, including tax, and there will be seats for all. There is not a step in the hall, the floor being on the slope. There are five exits, and different doors for balcony and pit, while the ventilation has been attended to. It is the largest hall in the town, and a platform has been added.

PICTURE HOUSES (1st July Issue)

Muirkirk has now two picture houses, Mr Simpson's new establishment in Smallburn being officially auspiciously opened on Monday evening. Rather an innovation took place just before the first picture was screened, when Mr Hughes of Blawearry, addressed the large gathering on behalf of Mr Simpson, stating that the building was scarcely yet completed, while the screen was only temporary, but it was known that the populace were as weary waiting as he was. He asked for forbearance in the meantime, and hoped for the success of

the venture. Picture lovers will thus have amusement to their heart's content, as each has three changes weekly, therefore to visit each house alternately means a change every night. And yet there is talk of even more picture houses, but probably it is mere talk. Pictures have evidently come to stay; as well as being educative, they are entertaining.

N.B.—The first programme at the Pavillion was a six-reel film, "A Peep Behind the Scenes," from the great stage success of that name, and featured Ivy Close.

Mr JOHN H. PRESTON

The subject of our sketch to-day is not a native of Muirkirk, coming here about 16 years ago, to start business as a hair-



dresser. Since his advent he has taken a great interest in the affairs of the village, and is a man of parts. He was for several terms a parish councillor, retiring only at last election owing to the call of business. Like many hairdressers' premises his shop forms a miniature Westminster, knotty problems being debated and thrashed out from local tittle-tattle to the affairs of the Realm.

Perhaps no one in the Parish did more for voluntary recruiting during the war than Mr Preston, and, although a married man with a family, clinched the argument by joining up himself. He spent some years in the fighting line, and is proud of the part he played. And now that at least the Great War is over he is out to get justice for the sufferers through the fight. It was mainly through Mr Preston's efforts that the series of several successful carnivals were instituted.

Musically inclined, he can sing a good song (humorous preferred), can scrape the cello, and, as well, can tell a good story (Riley, for instance). He was also a corner man in the local troupe of Minstrels of happy memory.

Our subject is an ardent Freemason, and is a Past Master of the local Lodge. He is also Captain of the local Branch of the Comrades of the Great War, Secretary of the Merchants' Association, a member of the Pensions' Committee, and, last, but not least, a regular contributor to these columns.

SEQUEL TO FATAL ACCIDENT

Arising out of the fatal accident in the boiler explosion that took place at Muirkirk Ironworks in October of last year, the widow and family of John Kelly (who was killed by the explosion) have accepted £1,000 as damages from Messrs Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd. The case was pending in the Court of Session.

SUDDEN DEATH

Mr James Robertson, engineer, from Muirkirk, died suddenly while at his work at Grasshill Colliery. He was 62 years of age.

FOOTBALL

With the ending of hostilities Europe and the young blood return to the village a renewed interest was taken in the sport of football, and the Muirkirk Athletic junior football team was re-formed with an enthusiastic Committee comprising the following:—

Hon President JOHN YOUNG, J.P.
 President ALEX. SIMPSON
 Secretary JOHN BARRIE
 Treasurer JOHN MOFFAT

Committee:

Sam Rae, A. Gourlay, Matt. Anderson
 Jas. Wilson, Willie Colthart, Wm. Kay
 and George Gebbie.

There was no League in season 1919-20, but the usual knock-out competitions took place. In the 1st round of the Scottish Cup the Athletic drew 3—3 with Catrine Thistle, and won the replay 2—1. Team:—Park; Williamson, Welsh; James Anderson, James Davidson, Wallace; Andrew Dacidson, John Davidson, McNair, Murdoch, Shirkey.

In the 2nd round they defeated Lugar 2—1, and accounted for Annbank Primrose, 2—1.

They were drawn away to Blantyre Celtic in the fourth round, and it appears because of ground conditions the game was played as a friendly, and the Athletic had to return in January and lost 4—1.

The Athletic Committee were instrumental in getting a League formed for season 1920-21, be it on the small side.

That season Glenbuck Cherrypickers reached the 4th round of the Scottish only to lose 3—2 to Dreghorn in a replay.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1920**BIRTHS**

BUCHANAN.—At Wellwood Street on 24th May, to Mr and Mrs Neil Buchanan; a son.

TAIT.—At Cowdenbeath on 7th August to Mr and Mrs Robert C. Tait; twins (boy and girl).

MARRIAGES

JOHN FINDLAY to NELLIE WARDROP on 16th January.

PETER ANDERSON to HELEN MAXWELL in New Zealand on 23rd December.

ANDREW McSKIMMING to MARGARET McCALL on 13th February.

JOHN KEAN to MARGARET WILLIAMSON on 18th June.

JOHN BAIRD to Mary BRODIE on 10th August,

HUGH WALLACE to AGNES ARCHIBALD on 25th August.

JOHN CAMPBELL to JANE CLARK on 10th September.

JAMES ANDERSON to MARGARET HILL on 24th September.

DEATHS

HAMILTON.—At Cumnock on 31st January, May Hamilton, aged 4 years, of Garronhill House.

TELFER.—At Glasgow Road on 22nd February, James Telfer aged 74 years; for 49 years blacksmith at Muirkirk Ironworks.

FERGUSON.—In U.S.A. on 8th February, David Ferguson.

BAIRD.—At Glasgow on 26th March, Euphemia Baird, aged 24 years, of Kateshall.

MILLAR.—At Renfrew, Marion Gemmell, aged 79 years, of Garronhill.

WILSON.—At Ronaldo Place on 11th April, Christina Gibson, aged 42 years.

ROSS.—At Morton Place on 23rd May, Isabella Baird, aged 70 years.

GIBSON.—At Stirling on 30th May, Edward Clark Gibson, aged 15 years.

ROGERSON.—In Australia on 21st April, Margaret Jane, aged 24 years; late of Midhouse.

QUEEN.—At Garronhill on 21st July, Mary Cameron Rose, aged 5 months.

GIBSON.—At Main Street on 19th July, James Gibson (Joiner), aged 70 years.

BROWN.—At Blackwood's Buildings on 2nd August, James Scott Brown, aged 85 years.

TELFER.—In U.S.A. on 6th July, James Telfer (late of Muirkirk), aged 94 years.

FOSTER.—At Greenock Mains on 8th August, John Foster (Farmer), aged 80 years.

TAIT.—At Cowdenbeath on 15th August, Isabella Young.

THOMSON.—As the result of an accident in Kames Pit on 12th August, Thomas Hunter Thomson, aged 28 years.

MITCHELL.—At Grasshill Farm, Glenbuck on 21st August, Marion Cunningham, aged 75 years,

LOGIE.—At Main Street on 29th August, Janet Murdoch, aged 58 years.

SAMSON.—At 15 Midhouse Row on 31st August, David Samson, aged 76 years.

LINDSAY.—At Glenbuck on 14th September, Janet Ritchie.

McCARTNEY.—At Kerr's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 21st September, Margaret Muir, aged 64 years.

McDONALD.—At Smallburn on 23rd October, Agnes Watson, aged 53 years.

TODD.—At Main Street on 29th October, James Todd, aged 3 months.

McWHINNIE.—At Smallburn on 1st November, John McWhinnie, aged 69 years.

HASTINGS.—At Glasgow on 19th November, Dugald Hastings, aged 27 years.

ADAMSON.—At Main Street on 26th November, Jane McFarlane, aged 78 years.

SWANN.—At Wellwood Street on 9th December, Elizabeth Park, aged 95 years.

ROBERTSON.—At Main Street on 24th December, James Robertson, aged 62 years.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

(1921)

INDUSTRIAL UNREST

All was not well countrywide as far as industry was concerned, but the reporting of local troubles was rather sketchy, and the following excerpts from the various issues should through some light on the subject.

31st March Issue.—Government control of coal in this industry ends today. As coal is not being produced at an economical rate, the miners have for some weeks been under notice of reduction of wages as from 1st April. The men have rejected the owners' proposal for a wage settlement on a district basis, claiming that on their part that a national wages board should be set up, and that there should be a national pooling of profits. To this the owners are opposed. Unless some arrangement is come to to-night (Thursday) it is expected that tomorrow the mines will be deserted. At a conference in London yesterday it was intimated that even the enginemen and pumpmen would be withdrawn.

7th April Issue.—

Under the Fuel Regulations just intimated by the Government, in consideration of the coal crisis, not more than one cwt. of coal is allowed to be delivered to each household per week. Good job it isn't the dead of winter.

14th April Issue.—

As a result of the coal crisis, stagnation has set in in every industry, and short time or suspension is the rule. On Sunday hopes rose when the enginemen resumed, although, as it turned out, their efforts had made little appreciable difference on the volume of water in the pits up till the time when they were again called out on Tuesday night. At the local pits the officials are carrying out the operations. Estimates of the time required to pump the water gathered in the local pits ranged from two months till all summer.

A special meeting of the School Management Committee for this area is being held at Cumnock today, to consider the question of providing meals to necessitous school children. The Education Authority have already approved of the principle, and remitted the matter to the Central Committee on School Management, who in turn have produced a scheme which the Area Committees are to put into operation.

21st April Issue.—

Like every other undertaking where coal is essential, Gas Companies are feeling the pinch. Already several have closed down; in others gas is available only a certain number of hours. A few Companies are reserving it for night, but Kirkcudbright is supplying it during the day, for industrial purposes and cooking, and this seems a reasonable view. It turns out that the local Gas Company have coal to supply gas for the next six days only, and unless a further supply of black diamonds is forthcoming at the end of that time the supply of gas will automatically cease. In the meantime consumers are asked to use as little gas as possible, so as to conserve the supply, and thus make it last all the longer.

Everything in the district is proceeding in orderly fashion, and in a way creditable to all concerned.

Communal feeding, or what is commonly known as the "soup kitchen" system, was begun in Muirkirk on Monday. The matter has been approached in a most systematic way, the various Unions participating—Furnacemen's Union, Miners' Union, Enginemen's Union, and the Muirkirk-Kinnox men. Each Union pays according to the number of rations given out to its members. The expenditure is to be totalled weekly, and thus the cost of each ration will be arrived at. No hard and fast line is drawn to exclude parties that are not in any Union; for instance such unemployed can have service by paying for their rations in the usual way. Widows are in the same position, while we understand an arrangement is practically in force whereby the Education Authority is to come good for the rations supplied to school children. The arrangement is working smoothly, and, as before mentioned, the work is done systematically. The goods are being paid for, thus disposing of any semblance of charity.

The food is cooked in boilers—three on the Southside, and four in the village. Two sub-conveners are appointed to manage each boiler, while the convener for the Southside is Mr John McCall, and for the village Mr John Colthart. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays soup and bread are served, a slice of bread of about seven or eight slices to the 2-lb. loaf being supplied with each ration of soup; on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, dry rations consisting of potatoes and bread are supplied.

It may be interesting to give the number of rations served during the first three days. Southside—Monday 846, Tuesday 905, Wednesday 942; Village—Monday 897, Tuesday 1001, Wednesday 1005. Other two boilers are on today—one on each side of the water.

Like many places there is a dearth of coal in the bunkers here, but, unlike most districts, coal is to be had, and is being had. Various outcrops in the vicinity are being worked to "keep the home fires burning," and shifts are at it during almost all the twenty-four hours. The coal is very soft, but is most welcome. In this way we are lucky in being in a coal district.

Pumping operations are proceeding at the various pits in the Parish, the officials working in shifts.

28th April Issue:—

As well as supplying hot dinners to necessitous children during the present industrial crisis, the local educational dignitaries have arranged to supply the specially necessitous with breakfast, and in this connection it may be mentioned that on Tuesday morning fifty were supplied and on Wednesday fully forty at Furnace Road, and about a dozen at Main Street School. The meal consists of hot cocoa, bread, and jam at Furnace Road, tea supplanting cocoa at Main Street. The staff undertake the work in turns.

7th May Issue—

The industrial crisis continues. Negotiations between the miners, the owners, and the Government having completely broken down. No hope is entertained for an early settlement. Locally the miners are passing the time on their allotments,

and in keeping the fires burning and communal kitchens going. About 3,000 are being fed in the Parish daily from the kitchens. The Education Committee are meeting the full bill for the children of school age, while they are also supplying breakfast to a number at the schools. Quietness and no friction is a laudable feature in the dispute.

26th May Issue.—

The soup kitchens under the auspices of the local Miners' Unions still continue the work of supplying meals at mid-day. In additions the managements have this week instituted an afternoon meal, consisting of half-a-pint of tea, a slice of bread and butter, and a roll and jam for each member of the household, and in this connection it may be mentioned that in one day 1,6000 rations were served out in Muirkirk, and 550 in Glenbuck. In addition, through the Child Welfare Association, a pint of milk is supplied for each necessitous child under five years of age in the district. The work is being carried out systematically and thoroughly, and it is a relief to feel that there should be no such thing as starvation in our midst.

The latest news is that unless a further supply of coal can be obtained, which at present seems highly improbable, there will be no gas next week at the town gasworks.

9th June Issue.—

The shutting down of the Gas Works for want of coal is telling perhaps more on industries depending on gas for power than on householders. The bakers say they are "no' gettin' on ava," and that each man has a "skinfu' o' sair banes." So far as the "Advertiser" is concerned, it was a case of either shutting shop or presenting a miniature edition to the public in the meantime, as it was found impossible to turn the larger and heavier machinery by hand for the requisite number. Adapting itself to the times in which we live, in its small way the "Advertiser" will still be a means of conveying notices, etc., to the local public.

N.B.—In all six miniature 4-page issues were published, each measuring 10-inches long by 6 inches wide.

16th June Issue.—

MINERS' BALLOT

Muirkirk	
For Acceptance of Offer	254
Against Acceptance of Offer	267
Glenbuck	
For Acceptance of Offer	63
Against Acceptance of Offer	117

23rd June Issue.—

The coal strike drags on. Disappointment with the result of the ballot is quite apparent. The bread rations at the soup kitchens have been somewhat reduced. The Miners' Union is out with a notice with regard to the digging of coal from out-crops, etc. Locally the miners are conducting g themselves creditably.

7th July Issue.—

MINERS' STRIKE ENDED

The strike officially ended last Friday, although the miners in this district were not enamoured with the terms.

At Galawhistle work commenced on Monday, and coal is being produced. All of the men are not yet employed, and it will be a week before operations are in full swing.

At Carmacoup the same conditions prevail as at Galawhistle. The most is being made of the places workable.

Grasshill pits are cleared of water, and some of the ponies are down again, but owing to falls and debris some little time must elapse before coalgetters are at work.

There is still a considerable volume of water in Kames pits, and it is estimated that it will be from a month to six weeks ere coal is got there.

21st July Issue.—

Although this summer swallows have been oftner seen than miners, these sons of toil are now much more in evidence. Work is in full swing at Carmacoup and Galawhistle, while at Grasshill and Kames work is being partially resumed this week. In Grasshill difficulties are being experienced with the roads, while although there is a good volume of water still in Kames pits, the higher workings are clear.

With a supply of gas again available, matters are quickly resuming their normal aspect. One of the chimneys at the Ironworks even omitting smoke the other day. Luxuries and entertainment will soon have an innings.

4th August Issue.—

It is said that matters are not going too sweetly at Kennox Colliery, a section of the men alleging that the standard wage is not forthcoming. A deputation has met with the management, and further conversations are to take place, when it is hoped the difficulty will be got over.

25th August Issue.—

Practically all the miners in the district are now employed, there being two shifts at Kames. No. 2 is not yet in order, and all are accommodated in No. 1. The dismantling of Lightshaw Pit, which has been in operation for a year or two, is also in progress. Owing to dull trade, the miners have lost a few days since re-starting.

8th September Issue.—

Working days and idle days are presently the rule at all the pits in the district, with the exception of Galawhistle, which is stopped meantime. It is expected that this colliery, too, will get a move on when opportunity permits, probably within the next week or two.

15th September Issue.—

The local Ironworkers, who have been idle for six months, through the stoppage of the furnaces here, have had recourse to communal feeding to live. They are having a hard time.

THE FURNACES OUT (March Issue)

Things look black at the Ironworks, in more senses than one. In common with most furnaces throughout the length and breadth of the land, operations have ceased for the time being, and all three furnaces are out, consequent on the stagnation in the steel trade through the high cost of production. It was a quiet spot yesterday; it seemed as still as the grave. We are led to believe that, now that the furnaces are out, they are likely to remain in this condition, not for days, or weeks, but for months—unfortunately. Work at the shops is still proceeding, but in a short time they will also be affected.. Let us hope that it does not extend to pits.

N.B.—But it did as the preceding columns show.

Mr THOMAS FLOYD

Author of "Cairntable Rhymes."



One of Scotland's greatest assets is its wealth of songs and poems, and to the list of such existing print "Cairntable Rhymes" will be no mean addition.

A canny Scot, an ardent lover of the Doric, a zealous student of Nature, a patriot, a local historian, modest to a fault, Mr Floyd's favourite pastime is the study of poetry and flowers.

Beginning work at the early age of 10 years, and to a large extent, self educated, the subject of our sketch has walked through life with his eyes and ears open and his mouth practically shut, occasionally giving vent to his feelings in verse, many of the stanzas probably woven to the throbs of the engine during his many years' experience on the footplate.

The majority of the poems have already appeared in the "Advertiser," but there are some new faces, and, the themes being local, their humour and pathos, satire and sentiment, have been enjoyed and appreciated by Muirkirkers all over the world.

Mr Floyd has no desire for fame, and would have preferred to remain in the quiet seclusion of Woodside, but the publication of the Rhymes has been thrust upon him by many friends who feel that the verses should be preserved.

The enthusiasm with which the first announcement of the intended publication was hailed, and now the actual publication realised, cannot but give Mr Floyd much pleasure, while the knowledge that he has thus added his quota to the poetical literature of our moorland village, and will leave behind him what will in the future be heirlooms from generation to generation, cannot but afford him great satisfaction.

**Rev. JOHN HENDERSON, B.D.**

Parish Minister

The subject of our sketch to-day is a well-known figure in the district. Mr Henderson came to Muirkirk in succession to the late Robert Montgomery in 1910, and since then has successfully carried on the work of the Church with tact and ability, obeying the Divine injunction to "rejoice with those who do rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn," and to very many indeed he acts as a "guide, philosopher, and friend." Unlike some members of his profession, Mr Henderson is far from effeminate in his manner, being frank and outspoken. As one lady put it the other day to the writer—"I like Mr Henderson; what he has tae say, he jist says't."

Since his advent to Muirkirk, Mr Henderson has taken an active interest in the affairs of the Parish. He was a member of the School Board during the last term of its existence, and his work in this connection still continues in the Education Authority and the School Management Committee for the Area, while from his pen come the various interesting reports of both bodies from time to time appearing in these columns. During the war probably no one in the Parish wrought harder for the soldiers and their dependants than Mr Henderson, in the way of securing comforts, grants, etc., while at the disbandment of the Volunteers he held the rank of Lieutenant in the local Company.

The Minister is nothing if not a sport, and he carries no cobwebs. He successfully captained the local Nomads cricket team for several seasons, and they have yet to be defeated. Those who took part in the games will not forget the advice and encouragement given by the Captain.

As a competitive milliner at a carnival he may be no great shakes, and he may use buchram for trimming, but, as a member of the Peripatetics when any good cause requires financial assistance, off goes the cloth, and he would be hard to beat at hauling in the cash. May such energy long continue.

**TO OUR
READERS AND ADVERTISERS**

(24th November Issue)

Commencing with next weeks issue the price of the "Advertiser" will be REDUCED to One Half Penny, and this, it is hoped, will now be the permanant price.

FOOTBALL (Season 1921-22)

Muirkirk Battlefield reached the 7th round of the Scottish Juvenile Cup competition but lost 5—3 to Oswald Thistle

They did however win the Glasgow House Trophy by beating Darnconnar Britannia by 2—0.

Muirkirk Athletic met Auchinleck Talbot in the final of the Mauchline Cup but lost 2—0. In the Coynton Cup semi-final they went down 2—0 to New Coynton United.

In the Cumnock Cup final Glenbuck Cherrypickers beat Talbot 1—0.

The Athletic beat Ayr Fort in the 2nd round of the Scottish Juniors Cup competition, and below is how the cartoonist of the time saw the result.



MUIRKIRK STORM THE FORT, AND NOW AWAIT KILBARCHAN

Unfortunately for them the Athletic lost this third round tie by 1—0.

OBITUARY

The death of Mr Hugh Miller, clerk, Catcheyburn, severed another link with old Muirkirk. Mr Miller had been with Messrs Wm. Baird & Co. for the long period of 55 years. Mr Miller had entered the Company's employment at Hurlford in 1866 and was transferred to Muirkirk in 1872.

FOUND, a pair of Spectacles. Loser apply to the "Advertiser" Office.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1921**BIRTHS**

YOUNG.—In Canada on 17th January, to Mr and Mrs John Young, a son.

MARRIAGES

ROBERT WARDROP to Mary Shields on 31st December, 1920.

WILLIAM JACK to ELIZABETH KENT on 28th January.

THOMAS KERR to CATHERINE GRAHAM on 4th March.

JAMES WYLLIE to ANNABELLA PICKERING on 11th March.

WILLIAM ADAMSON to AMELIA SIMPSON on 10th June.

DEATHS

HAMILTON.—At Glasgow on 2st January, Isabella Hamilton, aged 26 years.

HUGHES.—At Railway Buildings on 23rd January, Matthew Hughes, aged 5 months.

RICHARDSON.—At Garronhill on 20th January, Richard Richardson, aged 4 years 5 months.

MARSHALL.—At Hunter's Buildings on 27th January, Jane Samson, aged 52 years.

MITCHELL.—At Douglas Place on 29th January, James Mitchell (Ironmonger), aged 62 years.

ROSS.—At Glasgow Road on 28th January, Edith Ross, aged 20 years and 11 months.

MACKIN.—At 23 Springhill Terrace on 8th February, Agnes Mackin, aged 72 years.

McCARTNEY.—At Kerr's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 6th February, John McCartney, aged 69 years.

LOGAN.—At Paisley on 15th February, William Logan, of Fleming Cottage.

BAIN.—At Dalziel's Buildings, Glenbuck on 18th February, John Bain, aged 30 years.

SMITH.—At Linkieburn Square on 19th February, Archibald Smith, aged 47 years.

McKENZIE.—At Main Street on 23rd February, Donald McKenzie, aged 5 months.

LOGIE.—At Sloan's Buildings, Main Street, on 4th March, James Logie, aged 60 years.

RAMSAY.—At Main Street on 26th January, William Ramsay, aged 5 weeks.

WOOD.—At Wishaw on 10th March, Margaret Donnelly, aged 68 years.

BARR.—At 20 Grasshill Row on 15th March, Mary Bone, aged 44 years.

McDONALD.—At Ronaldo Place on 18th March, Mary McDonald, aged 16 years. CROSBIE.—At 3 Jubilee Row, Glenbuck, on 8th April, Rachel Muir, aged 57 years.

YOUNG.—At Kilmarnock on 17th April, Margaret McPherson, aged 61 years.

- LESLIE.—At 8 Torhill Row on 29th April, Janet Dalziel, aged 41 years.
- LOVE.—At Torhill on 24th May, Elizabeth Gibb, aged 69 years.
- McKINNON.—At Mossend on 9th June, Thomas McKinnon, aged 66 years.
- HARNESS.—At Harkness' Buildings on 9th August, George Harkness, aged 81 years.
- McKAY.—At Woodview, Garronhill, on 9th August, Elizabeth McKay, aged 2½ years.
- HENDRY.—At Knowe View on 4th September, Catherine Muir, aged 73 years.
- ROSS.—At Victoria Buildings on 4th September, Jane Currie, aged 62 years.
- BROWN.—At Victoria Buildings on 18th September, Jeanie Brown, aged 50 years.
- McGOWAN.—At Lochgelly on 18th October, Lizzie Logie, aged 59 years, late of Torhill.
- SAMSON.—At 26 Midhouse Row on 14th November, Janet Stevenson, aged 88 years.
- BUCHANAN.—At Bridge Street on 24th November, Neil Buchanan (Plumber), aged 77 years
- MOFFAT.—At Stableyard on 18th November, William Moffat, aged 66 years.
- SAMSON.—At Garronhill House on 17th December, Crawford Brown, aged 82 years.
- SHAW.—At Garronhill on 19th December, James Shaw, aged 39 years.

SEEN AND HEARD

A three-day New Year Carnival to help raise funds for the War Memorial (cenotaph and Victory Park) was held in the Furnace Road School. £337 was raised by the effort.

Mr Fred Wright took over the tailor's workshop in Main Street previously occupied by Mr James Steele.

Mr Archibald Fairbairn's Welsh pony, "Dolly," died suddenly, aged 18 years.

Wellwood Chapter, O.E.S., No. 159 was instituted on 28th May, when the principals were Sister Mrs M. Baillie as W.M. and Bro. Peter Mackie as W.M.

Wellwood House is let for part of the summer.

In July at London Major Humphrey G. M. Lindsay and Miss Edith Broun Baird of Wellwood were married.

A twelve-man team from Muirkirk Golf Club visited Douglas and won a fine match by 8—4. In the return match the following week with a sixteen-man team Muirkirk won easily 12—2, two games being halved.

Mr William McMillan, Main Street, caught a salmon in the River Ayr just below Greenockmains. It scaled 8½-lbs, and measured 29¼-inches in length and 14¼-inches in girth.

A bazaar at Glenbuck in aid of the Cherries realised the grand sum of £171.

Our Silhouette Salon



Mr CHARLES P. BELL

The subject of this sketch is one of the best known men in Muirkirk. Coming to Muirkirk something like 36 years ago, he has the honour of having served the ratepayers longer than any other teacher in the Parish. A native of Ecclefechan, Dumfriesshire, Mr Bell is the son of a parish schoolteacher, and just as the son of the green isle said he was "Irish and proud of it," so Mr Bell is proud of the land of his nativity and his genealogy as well. Throughout all these years, Mr Bell has taken a keen interest in the young, and in the affairs of the Parish.

For many years he trained the younger generation for kinderspeils, all of which were most successful. Along with the late Mr Donald, the revered Parish Schoolmaster here, he took a warm interest in the now-defunct Literary Society, and was a regular contributor by way of papers and in debate. Being well read, he can speak or write on almost any subject, and has been a frequent contributor to this journal, while he was secretary of the local Sports Committee for a number of years. As a black and white artist Mr Bell is well known, also as a local historian, and in this way he knows every footpath in the Parish, has walked to Glasgow, Ayr, Edinburgh, Carlisle, and Kirkcudbright.

A bit of a "soldier bold," in his younger days he was three years in the 3rd Lanark, Glasgow. Before the demise or hibernation of the local Horticultural Society, Mr Bell was a keen competitor in the vegetable section, in which he secured many prizes. In parsnips and carrots especially, he benched some meritorious exhibits, in the raising of which he used tar, salt, and even his wife's curtains to keep off marauding insects. Now Mr Bell has taken to poultry, and is keeping his record of eggs, and here it may be said that unless a record is worth keeping it is not kept, for while one may make a ban record, such is not preserved except by one's "friends." Mr Bell lost his eldest son (an officer) in the war, and, shortly after, his wife joined the "great majority," and these bereavements visibly shook the burly frame.

It is a lasting testimonial to Mr Bell that the children like him, and being unorthodox in his manner, the youth of the generation look back with pleasure on the time they spent under his tuition. Mr Bell began his life's labour in Muirkirk and here he will probably end it, amongst his many friends.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

(1922)

MUIRKIRK: ABOUT 100 YEARS AGO

Below is given to-day a description of Muirkirk Parish of about 100 years ago (possibly round about 1820). This is culled from a gazetteer of Scotland, and we trust may also prove interesting and informative:

MUIRKIRK is a parish in the extreme north-east of Ayrshire, containing the most easterly land in the county. It is bounded on the north and east by Lanarkshire; on the south and south-west by Auchinleck; and on the west and north-west by Sorn and Galston. Its greatest length, from east to west, is 9 miles; its greatest breadth, from Forrestcairn to Stoneyhill, is 8½ miles; and its area is about 58 square miles. On all sides except the west and the north-west, or over a sweeping segment of 25 miles, its boundary is a water-shedding line of summits. The surface of the interior is a rough, broken, dreary expanse of moorish hills, averaging from 800 to 1,000 feet in altitude, tame on outline, darkly heathy in general dress, now rising in solitary heights, and now forming ridges, which run towards almost every point of the compass, slenderly intersected with uninteresting valley grounds, and nearly altogether destitute of either grandeur or any other attraction of landscape. Cairntable, on the boundary with Lanarkshire, near the south-east extremity, is the highest ground, attains an altitude of 1,650 feet above sea level, and commands, on a clear day, an extensive and diversified prospect. About the middle of the eastern boundary, and half-a-mile inland from it, are two artificial lakes, jointly covering 121 acres, cut out at the beginning of the century by Messrs Finlay & Co. of Glasgow, as reservoirs to supply their cotton-works at Catrine. Issuing from the first of these, and traversing the second, the River Ayr runs 8 miles westward through the parish, cutting it into very nearly equal parts. Of numerous independent streams, all of local origin, which join in its progress, the chief on its right bank are Powness, Greenock, and Whitehaugh waters, respectively 3, 9½ and 5 miles long, and on its left are Garpel Water and Poscribeburn, respectively 4 and 2 miles long. The Ayr and the Greenock have a few eels, and abound with blackish coloured trout. Only about one thirtieth of the area of the parish is in the village; about two fifteenths have been ploughed, but cannot fairly be reckoned arable or cultivated ground; and all the remainder, excepting about 200 acres of plantation, amounting to five-sixths, are either totally waste or wildly pastoral. A natural forest waved its shadow, in the 12th century, over a large part, perhaps nearly the whole, of the surface; and has left dreary memorials both in such names as Netherwood and Harwood, worn by utterly tree-less farms, and in long trunks and branches deeply buried in moss. The mountain-ash is the chief tree which appears to grow spontaneously; it adorns the wildest scenes; and unexpectedly meets the eye by the side of a barren rock or sequestered stream, seldom seen except by the inhabitants of the air or the solitary shepherd and his flock. Coal lies on both sides of the Ayr,

at no greater a depth than 60 fathoms, in six seams aggregately 30½ feet thick, and severally 3½, 3, 7, 9, 2½ and 5½; and is mined on the most approved plans and in very large quantities both for exportation and for local consumption and manufacture. Ironstone occurs in the coal-field. in five workable seams, so thick that three tons of stone are obtained under every square yard of surface. Limestone likewise plentifully occurs, and is worked jointly with the ironstone and coal. Lead and manganese have been found, but not in such quantities as to be remuneratingly worked.

The parish is deeply and pathetically associated with the martyrly history of the Covenanters. Of various monuments the most remarkably is the tomb-stone of the eminent and devout Scottish worth, John Brown at Priesthill, a hamlet about three miles from Muirkirk. On the top of Cairntable there was anciently, according to tradition, a place of worship, and there are still two large cairns.

The villages are GLENBUCK [which see] and Muirkirk, noticed below. The parish is traversed eastward by the turnpike between Ayr and Edinburgh, and southward by the road between Glasgow and Dumfries by way of Strathaven. Population in 1801, 2,560; in 1831, 2,816. Houses 442. Assessed property in 1815, £3,820. Muirkirk is in the Presbytery of Ayr, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. Patron, the Marquis of Hastings. Stipend, £157 17s 3d; glebe £20. The Parish Church was built in 1813. Sittings 913. An United Secession congregation was established in the village of Muirkirk in 1822; and next year built a place of worship at the cost of £900. Sittings 380 Stipend £71. An independent congregation was established in 1799 or 1800. Their place of worship, also situated in Muirkirk, was originally two dwelling-houses, is let as a school-room during the week, and, along with adjacent ground, was valued in 1836, at probably £50. Sittings 130. According to an ecclesiastical survey made in 1836, the population then consisted of 2,596 churchmen, 320 dissenters, and 33 non-descripts, in all 2,949 persons. Parish schoolmaster's salary £28, with £30 fees, and £5 other emoluments. There are four non-parochial schools, one of them supported by the Ironworks Company. Till 1631 the parish was included in Mauchline. The church erected in it, at its being made independent, was apparently called "The Kirk of the Muir," abbreviatedly Muirkirk, and more formally the Muirkirk of Kyle. MUIRKIRK, a village near the centre of the cognominal parish on the River Ayr, at the intersection of the Ayr and Edinburgh, and the Glasgow and Dumfries roads, 13 miles south of Strathaven, 14 miles east of Mauchline, 25½ miles north-east by Ayr, 43 miles north-north-west of Dumfries, 30 miles south-east by south of Glasgow, and 51 miles south-west of Edinburgh. The village is of modern date, was brought into existence and nursed by the discovery and smelting of iron-ores, originally bore the name of Garan, from a height on which its earliest houses stood, and is thus noticed in the old statistical account: "The only village, or rather *clachan*, as they are commonly called that deserves the name, lies at a small distance from the church, by the side of the high road, on a rising ground called Garanhill, which therefore give name to the range of houses that occupy it. They have increased greatly in number since

the commencement of works, and new houses and new streets have risen around them. Many new houses, besides some of them of a very neat structure, have been built at the works themselves, and others are daily appearing that will, in a short time, greatly exceed, in number and elegance, those of the old village, formerly, indeed, the only one that the parish could boast." The place has not had uniform prosperity, and continues to be subject to fluctuations and retrogression; but, on the whole, it flourishes as the seat of a great and very gloomy manufacturer of iron, and at present numbers about 2,000 inhabitants, all dependent on the ironworks. These works comprise three large blast furnaces for making pig-iron, an extensive forge for making bar-iron, a foundry, some works for the manufacture of British or coal-tar, and some extensive works for tiles and lime. The pig-iron made here is reckoned by founders soft, easily melted, and of the best quality; and the bar-iron, owing partly to the peculiar mode of working it, and partly to the suitable quality of the coals, is superior to any produced in Britain, and little if at all inferior to the best produced in Sweden.

The New Statistical Account says, that the materials consumed in making one ton of pig-iron are 2 tons 12 cwt. of ironstone, 8 tons 12 cwt. of coals, and 19 cwt 3 quarters of lime; and that, in 1837, 400 workmen were employed, and worked eight hours a day during six days in the week. Connected with the iron-works are some canals and railways of limited extent. The village, as a place of residence, can be tolerable only by the hardy and prosaic class who actually inhabit it; its dense envelopment in murky smoke - its deeply dingy or sepulchral tints from coal pits and furnaces - its unmusical and deafening clang of rude vulcan operations - and its environment with a landscape of treeless, heathy, moorland hill, render it to persons of taste and sensitiveness almost the beau ideal of what is disagreeable and dreary. Coals are obtained for private consumption at about 3s 6d or 3s 9d per ton. The village has three friendly societies, two large circulating libraries, two inns, and more than usual proportion of ale-houses, and annual fares, ill-attended and of inconsiderable importance, in July, August and December."

GLENBUCK is a village in the parish of Muirkirk, district of Kyle, Ayrshire. It stands in a wild and secluded situation among the mountains, near the road between Ayr and Edinburgh. Some iron-works in the vicinity, erected and for some time carried on by an English company, occasioned it being built for the housing of the miners. But the works, having a considerable period ago, been abandoned, the village has been falling into decay. Population 237.

NEW JANITOR

On 28th February Mr James McCartney was appointed janitor, compulsory officer, and drill instructor, to replace Mr Brown, at Furnace Road School. There was a large list of applicants, and it took the Committee 2 hours to reduce this to a long leet of nine, and finally to a short leet of four.

Eventually it was reduced to two—Mr McCartney and Mr John Moffat. The final vote resulted in a tie. The Chairman, did not want to use his casting vote, and the issue was settled by tossing a coin.

COMPARATIVE PRICES

With the official index figures of the cost of living falling, it will be interesting to our readers to consider the comparative prices of some foodstuffs advertised in our columns last year at this time, and the prices ruling to-day.

	Last Year's Prices	To-day's Prices
Margarine—Fresh, per lb	1/5	10d
Salt	1/6	7d
Blue Band	1/10	1/-
Butter—Fresh	5/3	2/-
Danish	3/4	1/6
Eggs—Country, per Dozen	5/6	4/-
Danish	4/6	3/-
Syrup—Lyle's, per Tin	1/7	1/5
Golden, per 2-lb.	1/4½	1/1
Roast Dripping, per lb.	1/8	1/1
Hams—Wiltshire Bacon	3/4	2/4
Smoked Ham	3/-	1/10
Ayrshire Bacon	3/-	1/10
Corned Beef & Mutton	1/9	1/3
Boiled Bacon	3/10	2/6
Salmon	2/2½	1/8
Flour—White, per Stone	5/-	2/10
Self-Raising	6/-	2/10
Sugar—Brown, per lb.	7d	4¾
Granulated	9d	5¾
Raisins—Muscatels	1/4	1/3
Sultanas	1/6	1/5
Currants	1/2	10d
Jams and Jellies, 2-lb Jar—		
Apple and Plum Jelly	2/-	1/5½
Apple and Gooseberry Jelly	2/-	1/6
Raspberry Flavoured Jelly	2/5	1/4½
Damson Jelly	2/10	2/3
Red Currant Jelly	3/3	2/-
Bramble Jelly	2/8	1/8
Damson Jam	2/10	2/3½
Apple and Strawberry Jam	2/9	10d
Indian Corn, per Stone	2/6	1/4
Indian Meal	2/8	1/4
Wheat	3/-	2/-
Thirds	2/4	1/4
Mixed Grain	3/3	2/-
Tinned Fruits—Pears	2/6	2/2
Peaches	2/5	1/6
Apricots	2/3	1/3½
Soap—Sunlight, per Bar	9d	6d
Paraffin Oil, per Gallon	2/4	1/6
Candles, Each	2½	1½

INFLUENZA OUTBREAK

The flu epidemic continued to ravage the village, and in the month of January alone there were nine deaths, the virus claiming old and young alike.

SEEN AND HEARD

The Wee Tree Wood is presently being re-planted (across from the Cemetery).

At Glenbuck Grasshill Colliery is out of action because of a broken pump rod, and Blawweary and Kinnox Pits are on strike.

Muirkirk Station ambulance team won the Directors Cup at a competition at Barassie. The team was:—Messrs Jas. G. Hodge, Hugh Pringle, Jas. Girdwood, Jas. Ferguson (captain), and Jas. Williamson.

Licences were granted to Mr John Wilson, mineral water salesman, Hamilton, for the Empire Bar; and Mr Robert Burns Cummings, store manager, for the Ironworks Store.

Thomas S. Johnstone opened his Newsagents business in Furnace Road on 7th July.

Death was announced of Father Puissant, who was priest at St. Thomas' Church from 1909 till 1920.

The shock of the week (November) locally. Wellwood Estate is to be put on the market.

Captain C. N. Howatson, Glenbuck sold Tardoes Farm to Messrs Semple (the present tenants). The sale includes the fields at Kirkburnhead. The purchase price was between £5,000 and £6,000

Mr A. S. Templeton, Chemist, was the first in Muirkirk to receive a wireless broadcast (a concert from London).

A Celtic finger ring of bronze excavated at Wardlaw Cairn has been gifted to the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, by Major and Mrs Broun Lindsay of Wellwood.

STATISTICS (1922)

	Population	Voters
Glenbuck	713	331
Ironworks	1336	577
Muirkirk Village	2237	1145
Landward	<u>440</u>	<u>276</u>
	4726	2329

1921 CENSUS

	Males	Females	1921	1911
Muirkirk Village	1174	1063	2237	2311
Ironworks	721	615	1336	1462
Landward	224	216	440	481
Glenbuck	366	347	<u>713</u>	<u>728</u>
			4726	4982

(A total decrease over 10 years of 256)

Over the whole Parish, the numbers at different ages are:—

Under 1 year	139	35 to 45	578
1 to 5	402	45 to 55	493
5 to 10	560	55 to 65	294
10 to 15	567	65 to 75	169
15 to 25	847	75 to 85	62
25 to 35	610	85 and Over	5

THE LATE MR JOHN ANGUS, J.P.



Mr John Angus died at his home at Cardross on 20th April. Mr Angus came to Muirkirk in 1870 as young man, and left in 1915, after a stay of 45 years. As became his position as manager of the coal and iron industries of Messrs Wm. Baird & Co. here, he was a power in the community, and his influence for the good of the community was felt in many ways. It was mainly through his efforts that the bowling green came into existence, for he was the architect, master of works, had the slag carted to the spot, while he was the first President. To Mr Angus the Golf Club owes a great deal, and not only to Mr Angus, but to Miss Angus. What they did for the Club on its inception only very few know.

When he came to Muirkirk 45 years ago there was only one passenger carriage, and that was hitched on to the end of a mineral train—one in the morning and one at night. At that time the works were rather old fashioned. The forge was driven by a water wheel, and the mill by a turbine. In the village the houses were generally of one storey, and were mostly thatched. And now the forge and the mill have gone.

"MUCKLE'S RAW"

By the death of Mr John Meikle, which took place at Sunderland a few days ago, another link of the living chain connecting with old Muirkirk has been snapped. Mr Meikle had reached the ripe age of 86 years, and was a frequent visitor to his native town, where he had a considerable interest, being the proprietor of the Victoria Buildings, but commonly known as "Muckle's Row" (where know is situated Muirtex Factory). Over twenty years ago Mr Meikle made extensive alterations to the property. From a one-storey row it was transformed into a two-storey tenement, and its name was officially changed to fit the importance of the structure, but "Muckle's Raw" it will probably remain as long as the row itself. Mr Meikle's father was a blacksmith, and conducted business in one of the houses in the row. Mr John Meikle was a veterinary surgeon, and for long had a successful business in Sunderland

SOUTH AYRSHIRE ELECTION RESULT

BROWN, James (Labour)	11511
REID, Sir William (National Lib)	<u>9180</u>
Majority	2331

UNVEILING OF WAR MEMORIAL



After years of fund-raising and a lot of hard work the War Memorial at Victory Park was unveiled on 27th August, 1922, by General Sir Charles Fergusson. From the above photo, a good idea may be got of the appearance of the memorial, which takes the form of a gateway at the entrance to the Victory Park, recently gifted to the town by Mrs Broun Lindsay of Wellwood. The gateway is situated between the Baird Institute and Cairn House, and is placed about 20 yards back from the street. The Victory Park can also be reached from the Glasgow Road, by the same entrance as the Bowling Green, the Green occupying a part of the Park. The gate is of wrought iron, and the memorial is built of polished red sandstone from Locharbriggs Quarry, Dumfries, Messrs James Brown & Sons being the masons, the panels containing the names of the fallen of Creetown nided grey granite, with incised and raised lead letters. The memorial is from a competitive design by Mr J. Montgomery Pearson, architect, Kilmarnock (a native of Muirkirk), who also saw the work carried out. Over the gateway are the words—"In loving memory of the Muirkirk men who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918."

GAS LINK-UP

During the past week (November) workmen have been busy laying the pipes and making the connection between the Village Gas Works (Billy Rowe's House) and the Company's Gas Works (the present Council Yard), with a view to the supply of gas for Southside being given by the Muirkirk Gas-Light Co., Ltd., and on Friday evening the final act was accomplished when the last connection was made and the gas was turned on. It appears that the Southsiders are quite satisfied with the quality of the new supply. The plant at the village Works is quite capable of turning out much more than sufficient for both sides. Some additional plant is on the ground ready for erection, which it is hoped will not only increase the quality, but with larger production will also reduce the cost, and therefore the price to consumers.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULT

Henderson, John	270
Greenwood, David B	232
Colthart, John	207
Welsh, Andrew I	63
Mackie, Peter (unsuccessful)	133

MINING TRAGEDY

An explosion at Haig Pit, Whitehaven, on 5th September, claimed the lives of 39 miners. Mr James Strickland, recently manager at Grasshill Colliery, and now in charge of the nearby Ladysmith Pit, was hurriedly called by telephone on the morning of the explosion, and took an active part in the rescue operations.

WELLWOOD PIT

On Tuesday afternoon (29th August) a landmark on the countryside went the way of all things artificial, viz.: the chimney stack at Wellwood Pit, commonly known as the Big Pit. A shot of dynamite razed it to the ground after it had been weakened on one side. There were a few privileged onlookers. The pit was sunk in Waterloo year—1815, but the stalk was built about eighty years ago. Twenty years have elapsed since coal was drawn from the pit, and from then till about three years ago the shaft, etc., were used for pumping water only. Since then even the pumping has been stopped, and Tuesday last witnessed the final scene.

FOOTBALL (Season 1922-23)

Football took up most of the leisure time of the men of the village, and rivalry was keen between the local Athletic and Glenbuck Cherrypickers, as it was with the other neighbouring teams. Prospects for the Athletic looked really bright that year, but there was disappointment when they lost 3-1 to Irvine Vics in the Scottish Junior Cup, and in the same competition the Cherries went down 4-1 to Ayr Fort.

However, the Athletic did recover and managed to reach the final of three competitions. They lost 1-0 to Annbank United in the final of the Cumnock Cup, and by the same margin to Burnfoothill Primrose in the Mauchline Cup final.

But glory was to come in the Ayr and District Cup final. They drew 2-2 with Dunaskin Lads, and played well in the replay to win by 2-1. The Athletic were represented by:—Taylor; Tait, Mitchell; Davidson, Williamson, Turnbull; McNaughton, Gebbie, Duke, Wallace, Monk. The goals were scored by Wallace and Duke.

This Cup was instituted in season 1894-95, and this was the first time it had come to Muirkirk.

GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE

A go-as-you please competition at the Pavillion produced a dearth of local talent, and the result was as follows:—

- 1st Mr William Hill (melodeonist)
- 2nd Mrs Cruickshanks (Soprano)
- 3rd Mr James McDonald (contortionist).

These competitions were a regular feature at this popular place of entertainment in the village

WINNING SPRINTER

At Kirkconnel Sports, Alex. Hazle won the 220 yards handicap confined to a radius, while he finished third in the 100 yards.



Even before the start of the season Muirkirk Athletic were confident, as the local cartoonist shows above. In their first meeting of the new season Athletic beat Glenbuck Cherrypickers 4—0.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1922

BIRTHS

THOMSON.—At Aikron, Ohio, on 14th July, to Mr and Mrs John Thomson; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

ROBERT BIRRELL to MARGARET HOGG on 28th June.

D. MACKENZIE to SARAH WALLACE (Glenbuck) on 12th June, in South Africa.

DUNCAN DORNAN (late of Muirkirk) to THOMSON WALLACE (late of Glenbuck), on 19th August.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL.—At 8 Kames Row on 22nd January, Nicolas Anderson, aged 85 years.

HOUSTON.—At Glasgow on 25th January, James Houston.

ARMSTRONG.—At Main Street on 30th January, Margaret Glen.

PATRICK.—At St. Nicholas, Wellwood Street, on 26th January, Nicholas Gibson, aged 73 years.

WHYTE.—At Furnace Road on 20th January, Adam Whyte, aged 62 years

MENZIES.—At Cumnock on 10th February, Jim Menzies, aged 3 years, of 16 Park Terrace.

MILLAR.—At Leadhills on 28th February, Elizabeth Millar.

DEMPSTER.—At Bridge Street on 25th March, James Dempster, aged 68 years.

WYLLIE.—At Glasgow on 25th April, Margaret Wyllie, late of Woodside Cottage.

LINDSAY.—At Glasgow on 8th June, Jean Lindsay.

COWAN.—At 47 Linkieburn on 23rd June, William Cowan, aged 40 years.

LOGGIE.—Killed in Kames Pit on 3rd July, David Loggie, aged 42 years, of Kirkgreen.

MILLIGAN.—At Kilmarnock on 5th July, Mary Burns.

BEGG.—At Smallburn on 16th July, Isabella Meikle, aged 71 years.

BRADFORD.—At Coalburn on 18th July, Mary Kirkpatrick, aged 40 years.

FOSTER.—At Kirkmuirhill on 12th July, Isabella Ferguson, aged 71 years; late of Smallburn.

ALLISON.—The result of an accident at Grasshill, on 19th July, Archibald Allison, aged 20 years; of 6 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck.

McMILLAN.—At 3 Kames Row on 23rd July, Isabella McMillan, aged 52 years.

YOUNG.—In Canada on 16th July, John Young, aged 17 months.

STRATHEARN.—At Kilmarnock on 16th October, John Strathearn, aged 3 years 10 months; of 10 Old Terrace.

THOMSON.—At Furnace Road on 20th October, Matthew Thomson, aged 60 years.

HASTINGS.—At Glasgow on 30th October, Henry Hastings, aged 53 years; of 1 Park Terrace.

BOLAND.—At 64 Linkieburn Square on 20th November, Mary McGhee, aged 60 years.

HENDERSON.—At Glasgow on 27th November, Janet Hunter, aged 80 years.

WILLIAMSON.—At 66 Linkieburn Square on 20th November, John Williamson, aged 84 years.

CALDOW.—At Douglas Place on 30th November, Marion Henderson, aged 73 years.

INKSTER.—At Main Street on 4th December, Henry Inkster, aged 54 years.

RIGGANS.—Killed in Illinois, U.S.A., on 17th November, Robert Riggans.

HAMILTON.—At Toll Cottage, Smallburn, on 7th December, James Hamilton, aged 83 Years.

HIBBERD.—At Kirkgreen on 16th December, Charles Hibberd, aged 52 years.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

(1923)

Our Silhouette Salon

Mr DAVID B. GREENWOOD

Probably no one in Muirkirk is better known than Mr David B. Greenwood. Davie made his advent to the village when a child, and has since made good. He started work in Maidenbank Pit, and for some years produced coal at Kames Pit for eighteenpence per ton. Davie yearned for a brighter outlook in life, and, like many other good men, he took unto himself a wife, and started a cycle agent's business in a small way in Harkness' Buildings, removing later to his present premises when the storey was added to Victoria Buildings, where he launched out as a full-blown cycle manufacturer. The Wellwood cycle was his speciality, the machine being actually made on the premises. When motor cycling was in its infancy Mr Greenwood took to the sport, and was the first in the district to own a motor cycle, later turning his attention to motor cars, of which he now owns quite a fleet.

Mention has been made of his business career, but as a cyclist in his younger days he was a power in the land, and feared no foe on the track or the road. On tracks in Glasgow he had several bouts with Vogt and other demons of his day, starting from scratch, sometimes winning and sometimes losing. Well nigh thirty years ago the Muirkirk-to-Douglas-and-back road races caused a deal of excitement, and not a little heat amongst the partisans of the different schools of cyclists, and Mr Girdwood won the cup offered, in a time that has never since been approached, viz., fifty-nine minutes one second from Muirkirk Post Office (Glasgow Road corner) to Douglas Post Office and back—some twenty miles. Within recent years Mr Greenwood made an offer of £5 to the first party who would beat that record, and as it has not yet been accomplished the offer still stands.

It is not a little creditable to Mr Greenwood this rising by his own individual effort from pit-boy, with a scanty education, to proprietor of a flourishing motor hiring establishment. Who says aeroplanes next?

In private Mr Greenwood interests himself in many things. He is an enthusiastic Freemason, has occupied almost all the different offices in the local Lodge, and was R.W.M. for three years. During his term of office in the chair, largely through

his efforts the Lodge purchased their present property and built the temple, the meetings previously being held in the Eglinton Arms. With this change the Lodge took up a new lease of life, and is now in a flourishing position. As Mr Greenwood relinquished the Mastership of Lodge St. Thomas he took up the Principal's chair in the Royal Arch Chapter, while he at present holds office in the Preceptory and Priory. On retiral from the chairs in turn he was presented with the jewels of a Past Master and a Past Z, which souvenirs now form part of his greatest treasures.

Mr Greenwood is fond of various forms of sport, and is Chairman of the local Sports Committee, and was the moving spirit in the inauguration of the cycling track on Kameshill Holm, now under the slag bin. A keen curler, he is amongst the first at Airdsmill each season. He makes fine company, being of a frank manner, and can sing a good song—"Arrah go on, your'e only teasing," being his specialty, and as an encore can play a jig on the melodeon. Davie and his wife have seen their silver wedding; may they see their golden one!



Mr THOMAS JACKSON, J.P., BANKER

Next we have pleasure in adding to our gallery of silhouettes that of Mr Thomas Jackson, agent of The Clydesdale Bank at Muirkirk.

A native of Blantyre, and the son of a farmer, Mr Jackson was appointed accountant here in 1886, after occupying a similar position in Tillicoultry for a few months. From 1886 till 1896 he acted in that capacity under the late Mr James Gibson, and on the retiral of that gentleman in the latter year our subject was appointed agent—a position he has held with credit ever since.

During the last thirty-six years Mr Jackson has been part and parcel of the place, and that he has done his share of the work in connection with the various bodies is simply borne out by the following formidable list of offices he has filled, and several of which he still holds—Treasurer of the Baird Institute for twenty years, treasurer of the Nursing Association since its inception, clerk to the Heritors, secretary and treasurer of the Cattle Show, the Bowling Club, the Curling Club, and secretary to the Horticultural Society, while he has been scribe and cashier of the Gas-Light Company ever since his arrival in Muirkirk.

Mr Jackson takes a keen interest in the growing of flowers

and vegetables, and his favourite pastimes are curling in the winter and bowling in the summer.

In his position as banker he has always enjoyed the confidence of the public, and the cases are legion in which he has acted as the part of a lawyer in the writing of deeds, filling up forms, etc.—acted the part in all except the drawing up of the fees. When in trouble anent forms and figures the decision of the harassed one has generally been—"I'll see Jackson about it," while, if the advice of a friend was sought, the counsel was "Tak' it tae Jackson."

Mr Jackson never laid himself out for public honours or popularity, preferring a back seat to the platform at meetings, and, like many eminent though unpretentious Scotsmen, is most at ease when using the homely and expressive Doric.

MUIRKIRK PARISH WAR RECORD

The amounts raised by the various Committees during the War years 1914-1923 were as follows:—

Finance Committee	£6325	9	0	
Belgian Committee	91	2	6	
Industrial Committee	506	10	2	
Flag Days	249	0	0	
'Xmas Parcels Committee	2628	4	2	
Red Cross Weeks	871	16	7	
Muirkirk Miners for Ambulances	301	10	0	
Bangour Hospital	34	0	0	
Whist Drives for Volunteers	66	0	0	
Welcome Home Fund and Medals	940	0	0	
Memorial and Victory Park	1400	0	0	
Free rent, Coal and Gas—				
Wm. Baird & Co. £1956	0	0		
Knox Colliery 57	6	0		
			2013	6 0
			£15426	18 5

PROPERTY MARKET

On 5th October two properties in Glenbuck were put up for auction—Vass's Place and Auchinstilloch Cottages, locally known as Vass's Buildings and the Monkey Row, respectively at an upset price of £150 and £177. There were no takers. We understand a private deal was made with a gentleman of the farming fraternity.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE ELECTION RESULT

Mr James BROWN (Lab.)	11,169
Sir Charles FERGUSSON (Con.)	<u>8,807</u>
Majority for Mr Brown	2,362

AIRDSGREEN SALE

7th December saw a dispenishing sale of farm stock at Airdsgreen, thus bringing to an end a tenancy of several generations of Johnstons. Mr James Johnston's grandfather came to Airdsgreen ninety-six years ago, and now, after almost a century's occupation by the same family, the present farmer lately, owing to advanced years and illness in his family, decided to give it up. On Sunday last, Thomas, the youngest and last remaining son at home, died at Airdsgreen, after a painful illness.

BILLIARDS

This sport was very popular in the village, with keen rivalry both at the Baird Institute and the Ironworks Institute. A handicap competition drew the largest entry in the history of the Baird Institute. The competition was one of 200 up, the loser paying the table. The first round draw with handicaps was as follows:—

Wm. Samson 65	v.	H. Murray 85
G. Abbott 75	v.	R. Kay 75
Bill Murray 70	v.	C. Gilchrist 90
John Symington 15	v.	W. Vallance 65
T. McCulloch 80	v.	W. Hamilton, Jr. 75
W. Beck 55	v.	Jas. Abbott 75
J. Clement 20	v.	J. Girdwood 60
J. Wilson 30	v.	Jas. Fleming 20
J. Park 15	v.	C. Sanderson 80
J. Mansfield 85	v.	Jas. Samson 30
George McCall 70	v.	Wm. Cook 90
G. Wallace 95	v.	James Weir 70
J. Mansfield, Snr 45	v.	A. Johnstone 70
T. Millar 45	v.	T. P. Hutchison 35
D. Taylor 75	v.	R. Thomson 70
T. Anderson 35	v.	.A. Smith 65
F. Hastings 55	v.	W. Holden 50
D. McSkimming Sc	v.	W. R. Merry 80
John Ross 70	v.	A. Beck 35
A. Little 65	v.	Wm. Wilson, Snr. 85
John Thomson 95	v.	Jas. McKie 65
Hugh Dempster 55	v.	Sam Gibney 70
D. Murray 55	v.	J. D. Brown 85
R. Ritchie 90	v.	W. Duke 40
D. Shaw 95	v.	W. Walker 15
J. Hamilton 70	v.	R. McKie 50
P. Monaghan 70	v.	Arch. McDonald 75
H. McDonald 95	v.	W. Thomson 95
Jas. Barrie 50	v.	G. Mcillan 80
A. Thomson 85	v.	.W. Dempster 70
Alex. Dempster 100	v.	W. Hodge Scratch
Hugh Strathearn 45	v.	W. Taylor 60
Jas. Murray 45	v.	A. Love 45
B. McDade 35	v.	.Jack Abbott 75
D. Love 40	v.	D. Blyth 70
Cam. Taylor 70	v.	.T. Sanderson 55
Jas. B. Ross 60	v.	T. Wilson 100
D. Hamilton 55	v.	James Bell Scratch
Alex. McDonald 55	v.	Jas. McIntyre 75
A. Mitchell 45	v.	Wm. Hamilton 15
Jas. McCall, Jr 100	v.	A. Fleming 50
R. Samson 110	v.	Dick Symington 50
A. Hodge Scratch	v.	Jas. Masterton 100
Geo. Thomson 35	v.	Chas. Taylor 60
B. Da Prato 85	v.	.R. R. Thomson 55.

VITAL STATISTICS (1922)

The number of births registered was 90, which is the lowest recorded since the introduction of the registration system, the next lowest being in 1857, when there were 101, while the highest yet recorded was in 1879, when 267 were registered. The marriages registered during 1922 numbered 20, which may be termed normal, and the deaths is 50, this being amongst the lowest.

SEEN AND HEARD

Trade in Hogmanay marriages in Muirkirk was quite fair; there were eight of them.

There could have been £1000 profit made the other day in Muirkirk. Messrs Semple could have received £1000 more for Tardoes than they paid for it a month ago.

Mr James Clark bought the farm of Crossflatt from Glenbuck Estate.

The trout hatchery above Ladeside is doing well, and this year 5000 eggs were purchased.

Mr David Rennie was granted a public-house licence for Main Street, and Mrs Mary Inkster for a renewal of transfer for the Douglas Arms.

The thatched property in Main Street owned by the late Miss Helen Jane Blyth has been sold to Mr James Love.

Several of the aeroplanes taking part in the air race for the King's Cup passed over Muirkirk on the morning of July 14.

In the final of the Scottish Cup competition Glenbuck Quoting team beat Auchintibber 85—83.

In a band contest at Douglas, Muirkirk Parish Silver Band were returned worthy winners, winning both the March and the Selection pieces.

Serious flooding in November saw the River Ayr burst its banks and 100 lambs at Mid Wellwood were caught out. Although some were rescued, most perished in the flood waters.

On 16th November Kennox Miners' Welfare Institute at Glespin was opened by the Earl of Home.

There were twenty degrees of frost registered at Muirkirk on 24th November.

BROADCASTING

The Glasgow Broadcasting Station, which is working splendidly, is admitted to be one of the best equipped in the British Isles, if not the best. With regard to the reception got locally—with a good aerial (even clothes poles), and a good crystal set, reception is clear but rather faint. As crystal sets are not meant to operate successfully for more than ten miles from the broadcasting station, and, as Glasgow is more than twice that distance, the result is very satisfactory. With a single valve set the reception is clear and items of music are quite comfortably received, with two valves in operation you get more volume, and by increasing the filament power it can be made uncomfortably loud. With three or four valves in operation, the tone be altered to suit the taste of the party listening in. It is really wonderful.

THE CASTLE

The sight of old landmarks disappearing causes in most people pangs of regret. The old Linkieburn Castle is now but a memory, the High Weighs have disappeared, and within the last few months it looked as if the old Red Row, with its tiled roof was following in their wake. It is noticeable, however, that two of the roofs of the houses have now been repaired, and it is to be hoped they will stand the test of time for many years, and thus remain a visible remnant of old-world architecture.

PARISH STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
Glenbuck	366	347	713
Ironworks	721	615	1336
Muirkirk Village	1175	1062	2237
Landward	224	216	440
		Total	4726

THE ROMANCE OF A BASS FIDDLE

Proof was led in an action at Ayr Small Debt Court, held in the County Buildings, Ayr, on 3rd May, in which the Muirkirk United Free Church Guild Orchestra, John Devine (conductor), and Thomas Wilson, Treasurer, the office-bearers of the said orchestra, sued John Johnstone, Furnace Road, Muirkirk, for the delivery of a double bass fiddle and cover.

The case was called to ascertain just who owned the instrument in question, and at the conclusion of a lengthy hearing the Sheriff stated that Mr Johnstone had got the fiddle from Mr Fleming on the understanding that he was to give it up when Mr Fleming called for it. He refused to do this. The fiddle was in the possession of the Guild Orchestra, and Mr Fleming played in that orchestra and gave the fiddle to the defender to keep for the night, and in these circumstances the Guild Orchestra were quite entitled to sue. He therefore gave decree for the return of the fiddle, and discerned against defender for payment to the pursuers of £5 expenses.

DONAGHY for**FOOTBALL
BOOTS.**

The Genuine 'Hotspur'
Registered Football Boots.

Worn in the English Cup Final at Wembley,
1923, by the competing teams—Bolton
Wanderers and West Ham United,
thus showing the confidence the Principal Clubs
have in these Boots by using them in the National
Final.

Recognised as the Best Football Boots in
the World.

Made in Sizes and Half-sizes—5's to 11's—by Read,
Myall, & Read, Northampton, and sold only
by their Accredited Agent in this District—

J. DONAGHY,

Glasgow Road,

MUIRKIRK.

New Season's Price

(fixed by the makers), 19/6.

Wear 'Hotspurs' and Win.



**LIST OF TRADES AND PROFESSIONS,
MUIRKIRK, 1897**

Aerated Water Manufacturer

Walker, William Main Street

Bakers

Co-operative Society Main Street
Hogg, John, Jun. Main Street
Penrice, John Furnace Rd.

Bank

Clydesdale Bank Agent:
T. Jackson

Blacksmiths

Hamilton, William Main Street
Telfer, J. Main Street

Stationers, Newsagents

Blackwood, W. S. Post Office
Smith, W.S. Main Street
Weir, J.S. & Co. Main Street

Boot and Shoe Makers and Dealers

Dunn, John Main Street
Murdoch, James Main Street
Murdoch, Jas. (Dealer) Main Street
Smith, D. Main Street
Smith, G. Main Street
Smith, J. Main Street

Butchers

Blyth, John Glasgow Rd
Henderson, William Main Street
Kerr, David Main Street
Vallance, William Main Street

Chemist and Druggists

The Medical Hall Main Street

Cabinet Maker and Furniture

Blackwood, James Main Street

China Merchants

Alexander, James Glasgow Rd
Morran, P. Glasgow Rd

Carriage Hirers

Henderson, Thomas Smallburn
Kerr, James (Eglinton Arms Stable)
Harkness, Robt. (Black Bottle Tavern)
Rowe, E. Main Street

Coal Merchants

Baird, Wm., & Co. Ltd.
Cairntable Coal Co., Ltd.
Callan, James Torhill
Sampson, James Smallburn
Strathearn, H. Garronhill
Vallance, J. & J. Smallburn

Cycle Agent and Repairer

Greenwood, David Main Street

Drapers

Coperative Society Main Street
Gemmell, Thomas Main Street

Dairymen

Foster, John Wellwood
Foster, R. Kateshall
Gibson, A. Dalfram
Henderson, T. Smallburn
Henderson, W. Smallburn
McClymont, J. Kirkburnhead
McCulloch, W. Linnburn
Murchie, H. Bankend
Rogerson, J. Midhouse
Taylor, J. Holmhead
Thomson, A. Royal George
Vallance, J. Smallburn
Weir, J.S. Heathfield
Whyte, J. Greenside

Dress and Mantle Makers

Anderson, Miss Bridge Street
Blackwood, Misses Main Street
Cameron, Miss Store B'dings
Floyd, Misses Garronhill
Johnstone, Miss Main Street
Mooney, Mrs Main Street
Murray, Miss 24 Old Terr.

Emigration Agents

W. S. Blackwood
John Halliday

Fishmonger

Smith, J. Main Street

Fruiterers and Greengrocers

Marshall, J. Main Street
Weir, W. Main Street

Funeral Undertakers

Blackwood, W. Main Street
Gibson, J. Glasgow Rd
Wood, J. Main Street.

Grocers and Provision Dealers

Co-operative Society Main Street
Gibson, T. Main Street
Halliday, J. Main Street
Ironworks Co-op. Society (Licensed)
Johnstone, Mrs Furnace Rd.
Kerr, J. Main Street
Muir, A., & Son (Licensed)
Murdoch, William (Licensed)
Wilson, Mrs Main Street

Grain Merchant

Craig, T. Furnace Rd.

Hairdresser

Baird, C. Main Street

Hotels

Eglinton Arms—Mrs Gibson
Masons' Arms—Mrs Wilson

Ice Cream Maker

Forte, J. Main Street

Inns and Taverns

Dunbar, J. Main Street
Harkness, R. Black Bottle
Hendry, J. Main Street
Hutchison, J.G.

Ironmongers

Dale, James Main Street
 Kennedy, John Main Street
 Sharp, E. Main Street
 Young, James Main Street

Joiners and Wrights

Blackwood, William Main Street
 Gibson, James Glasgow Rd.
 Wood, John Main Street

Medical Practitioners

Fulton, Andrew, B., M.B., C.M.
 Carruthers, D.

Milliners

Dunn, Mrs Main Street
 Law, Mrs Main Street
 Morton, Miss Furnace Rd.

Painter and Paperhanger

Blackwood, James Main Street

Plasterers and Cement Workers

Hutchison, J.G. Main Street
 Kerr, John Furnace Rd.

Printer

Smith, W.S. Main Street

Rag Merchants

Alexander, James Glasgow Rd.
 Morran, P. Glasgow Rd.

Seedsman

Craig, T. Furnace Rd.
 Gibson, T. Main Street
 Dale, J. Main Street
 Kennedy, J. Main Street

Slater, Plumber, Gasfitter

Young, James Main Street

Tailors and Clothiers

Dickson, J. Main Street
 Hackett, H. School Lane
 Jack, R. Main Street
 Pearson, W. Main Street
 Shaw, J. Main Street
 Whyte, T. Main Street

Upholstress

Hamilton, Isa Smallburn

Watchmakers and Jewellers

M'Neil, T. Main Street
 Millar, J. Main Street

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1923

(No Births were Advertised in 1923)

MARRIAGES

JOHN KILLIPS to ANNIE MORAN on 26th January.
 WILLIAM JAMIESON to LILY ANDERSON on 1st June
 WILLIAM SHEARLAW to JEAN LAIDLAW on 20th July.
 ROBERT KELLOCK to MAISIE DOWIE on 8th August.
 PEYER WATT to ELIZABETH HOLDEN on 12th September.
 JACK BROWN to JESSIE LOGGIE on 29th October
 THOMSON KIRKLAND to WILLIAMINA HORNE on 20th December.

DEATHS

BAIN.—At Glasgow on 17th February, James Bain, aged 57 years, of Glasgow Road.

MURDOCH.—At Bankhead on 18th February, Hugh Murdoch (blacksmith), aged 68 years.

BROWN.—At Gibson's Buildings, Main Street, on 19th February, Margaret Brown, aged 62 years.

MONTGOMERY.—At Manse Lane Cottage on 28th February, Mrs Montgomery, in her 85th year.

FERGUSON.—At Jubilee Cottages, Glenbuck, on 9th March, Margaret McLean, aged 76 years.

WHYTE.—At Haystackhill on 11th March, Catherine Whyte, aged 72 years.

EASTON.—At Kilmarnock on 23rd March, Mary Neil, aged 53 years, of Bankhead.

WILLIAMSON.—At Linkieburn Square on 13th April, Mrs John Williamson, aged 83 years.

ARCHIBALD.—At Kilmarnock on 14th April, James Kilpatrick, aged 68 years, of Manse Lane.

SMITH.—At 31 Kames Row on 18th May, Mrs John Smith,.

CAMERON.—At Kilmarnock on 25th May, result of an accident at Grasshill Colliery, Joseph Cameron, of 4 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck.

WALLACE.—At Kilmarnock on 1st June, William Wallace, aged 77 years, late of Kirkgreen.

CAMPBELL.—At Akron, Ohio, U.S.A., on 26th June, Bill Campbell, aged 30 years (late of Victoria Buildings).

KERR.—At Motherwell on 27th August, Walter Kerr, aged 57 years (late of Glenbuck).

SAMSON.—At Main Street on 21st September, Lizzie Samson.

SAMSON.—At Glasgow on 23rd September, John Samson, aged 8 months, of Smallburn.

CALDOW.—At Ronaldo Place on 27th September, Nan Gibson, aged 28 years.

MURDOCH.—At Bridgend, Glenbuck, on 7th October, Jane Copeland.

BLYTHE.—At Chicago on 24th September, Peter Blythe, aged 39 years (late of Victoria Buildings).

SMITH.—At Dumfries on 21st October, Peter Smith, aged 69 years.

TAYLOR.—At Main Street on 9th November, Mary Anderson, aged 63 years.

BONE.—At Old School Row, Glenbuck, on 18th November, George Bone, aged 76 years.

DODDS.—At 2 Springhill Terrace on 16th November, Helen Roy, aged 70 years.

JOHNSTON.—At Airdsgreen on 16th December, Thomas Johnstone, aged 34 years.

DODDS.—At 41 Springhill Terrace on 25th D++ecember, Wee Ellen, aged 3½ months.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

(1924)

The following excerpt is taken from a brochure entitled "Muirkirk and its Neighbourhood, being Notes of a Visit and Recollections of Former Times, by Rev. Peter Mearns, Coldstream," and as the book is long out of print and much sought after, excerpts will probably find favour with many of our readers:—

THE VILLAGE

On my way from the Railway Station to the village, I observed how much everything had been changed since I first knew the place. The Iron Company's holms, on both sides of the road, which were then beautiful and fertile, are now covered with high mounds of slag from the furnaces; and I saw workmen cutting a new channel for the River Ayr west of the bridge, to allow an extension of the slag hill. Auld Ayr sweeps down the valley in a roaring flood, overflowing his natural banks during winter storms; but I suspect the new banks will effectively confine the flood within a narrow channel. The road from the bridge to the village seemed to my boyish eyes a long stretch; but now it seems only a few steps. A succession of new houses now extends on both sides of the road about half-way towards the bridge. Everything seems smaller now than it appeared to me in my youth. Cairntable, however, which towers over the whole district, is several hundred feet higher than it was reckoned in my school-days; but this does not arise from the growth of the mountain—it is the result of the more accurate measurements of the Ordinance Survey. I found the same sweet, cool spring on the river-side, near the bridge, which has been there from time immemorial. As the day was hot, I found its cooling water very refreshing. It is said that the puddlers at the Works can drink freely of the water from this spring when so over-heated that they would be much injured by cold water from any other source. It is a wonder that it has not been covered up by the rubbish that has fallen all around it. It remains unaffected by the changes in its neighbourhood. It seemed to say—

"Men may come, and men may go;

But I flow on for ever."

I found a home for the time of my visit in the hospitable manse of the United Presbyterian minister—the Rev John Dundas having arranged to exchange pulpits with me during our holidays.

The Parish of Muirkirk was once included in the Parish of Mauchline; from which it was detached, and formed into a separate Parish in July, 1631. "The patronage of the new Parish was then settled on the notorious John, Earl of Loudon, who figured as a factionary during the reign of Charles I. The new church which was then established was called "The Kirk of the Muir;" all these operations were ratified in the Parliament of June, 1633." (Chalmer's "Caledonia.") The parish was afterwards named more briefly "Muirkirk." The church then built was repaired and heightened in 1775; and, at the time of my visit, it was agreed to re-seat the church and improve it internally

During the time that the church was under repair, from September, 1882, till August, 1883, the congregation met with the United Presbyterians in their church. The church has been re-floored and re-seated, while a very handsome carved pulpit supplies the place of the old one. A few houses were built beside the church at first; and the Kirk Green is still an old-looking part of the village. The houses gradually increased in number; and the village became greatly extended by the establishment of the Ironworks in 1787. The population of the village in 1811 had risen to 1200. Before the reformation, the large parish of Mauchline had two chapels to the east—the one on the River Ayr, on lands now included in the parish of Sorn, and the others on Greenock Water, in the district now belonging to the parish of Muirkirk.

The parish of Muirkirk is about eight miles long and seven broad. Its population in 1755 was only 745; but its increase has been remarkable. In 1791 it had risen to 1500; in 1801 to 2560; in 1811 to 2810; in 1821 to it had fallen to 2687; in 1841, however, it had risen to 3125; in 1851 to 3423; in 1861 it had fallen to 3270; and in that year the village appears in the census among the 78 towns of Scotland with 2000 inhabitants—it having a population of 2281. In 1871 the population of the parish was still falling, and then stood at 3253, but in 1881 it had risen to 5131, the highest figure it has ever reached.

This large increase is partly owing to the changes at Glenbuck—the Works there having been lately resumed after they had been discontinued for many years. The village of Glenbuck has now a considerable population, with a church and Board school. Mr Howatson, the present proprietor, takes much interest in the moral and spiritual welfare of the people of Glenbuck.

The church is an elegant and commodious building, with a comfortable manse adjoining it. It must prove a great blessing to the neighbourhood. I understand than not more than a dozen persons formerly attended any church from this village; and there is now a regular attendance at this church of about 200. I had the pleasure of preaching in the church, and heard with much satisfaction of the improved church-going habits of the people. Mr Howatson, to whose exertions and liberality the erection of this church is chiefly owing, has placed a stone in front of it, with the following inscription:—"Glenbuck Church. This stone is placed here by Charles Howatson of Glenbuck, to commemorate the noble life and heroic death of John Brown, Richard Cameron, and others, who were killed (1680-85) in those martyr districts for faithfulness to the cause of Christ in Church and State. This church was opened for worship, 16th July, 1882.

I visited the graveyard at Muirkirk, and saw the tombs of some whom I had known in their youth, full of energy and bright with hope. It was sad but instructive from this standpoint to review their lives. Some of the inscriptions were affecting. One stone recorded the death of an infant of five months old, a brother of the infant twenty-one years old, and a sister-in-law twenty-nine years old; and underneath the names and ages was the lamentation:

“Early was I taught to shed
Drops of grief o'er loved ones dead;
Dew on blossoms dry and sear,
Emblem meet of sorrow's tear.”

The oldest stone in the graveyard was erected in 1731 over the grave of a martyr with the inscription—“Here liyes John Smith who was shot by Col. Buchan and the Laird of Lee, Feb., 1685, for his adherence to the work of God, and Scotland's covenanted work of Reformation. Rev. 12, 11.” There are three other stones erected over the graves of martyrs in other parts of the parish. The neighbourhood of Muirkirk was a famous retreat in the persecutions under the Stuart dynasty; and sometimes the martyr was followed to his lonely dwelling or hiding place. The memory of the Scottish martyrs is still deeply cherished in this parish.

A stone was erected over the grave of Isabella Pagan (usually called Tibbie Pagan), who died in 1820, at the age of 80 years, and the stone is in a good state of preservation

(More details of Tibbie Pagan are given elsewhere in this book.—Ed.)

The ecclesiastical history of the parish is engraven on the monuments in the graveyard. The monuments erected over the tombs of the parish ministers of Muirkirk reach back to 1750, when the Rev. William Younger died at the age of fifty-nine. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Shepherd, who died August 14, 1799, having been minister of the parish for nearly twenty-four years. The next minister was the Rev. Wm. Rutherford, D.D., who died in 1820; and was minister of the parish for twenty years. The Rev. Alexander Brown, who was ordained in June, 1814, as a colleague and successor to Dr Rutherford, died 1831, in the prime of life, aged 47 years—a man of fine feeling and popular talents, but ruined by a fondness for intoxicating drink; so that his example became a warning to his parishioners. The Rev. J. Symington, the next minister, was born in Leadhills in 1787, and died in October, 1852, having been minister of Muirkirk for twenty years. Mr Symington was succeeded in 1853 by the Rev. Alex. Johnstone, whom I had not the pleasure of knowing. His successor, ordained in 1867, was the Rev. Lewis Beaton, M.A., now minister in Carnwath. The Rev. Robert Montgomery, B.D., the present minister, was ordained in 1878.

None of the dissenting ministers of Muirkirk have found a resting place in the churchyard; but the Rev. David Young, late United Presbyterian minister, sleeps in the cemetery north of the village on the Glasgow Road. The United Presbyterian Church, formerly the United Secession Church, has been in existence for nearly sixty years—the Rev. James Garrett, its first minister, having been ordained in 1825. The Rev. John Aird, the second minister, was ordained in 1832.

LOCAL STATISTICS

	1923	1924
Births	121	90
Deaths	35	50
Marriages	42	20

The number of deaths recorded is the lowest since registration came into force in 1855.

SEEN AND HEARD

Mr Simpson finished up at the Pavilion in March. The new lessee was Mrs Hughes.

Nicholas Forbes, 15-year-old daughter of Police Sergeant and Mrs Forbes of Muirkirk, was killed in a train accident at Auchinleck Station.

Victoria House (presently owned by W. Girvan), was bought by Mr John Blyth for £785.

Mr David B. Greenwood, a prominent business man, died on 22nd April.

Mr Andrew Robb, Carluke, was granted a transfer of licence for the Douglas Arms (opposite Main Street School).

The new refuse coup at Kateshall was opened in May.

The park-keeper's cottage in Victory Park was built in May.

From the 24th July issue—Seven deaths have taken place in the parish since 26th April, and the various ages were—72, 71, 76, 78, 83, 75, 80—a total of 535, and an average of 75 each. Surely a good recommendation for Muirkirk as a health resort.

Mr Charles P. Bell, popular schoolteacher at Muirkirk, retired after over 40 years' service.

In September Mr Alex. Hazle was appointed manager at Glenbuck Co-operative Society, in place of Mr Robert Kirkwood, who has received an appointment as a traveller for a well known biscuit firm.

A 10-lb. salmon was lifted from the River Ayr below Mauchline by a Muirkirk man the other day. Not bad!

In November Mr William Mochrie took over the Fleshing business previously carried on by Mr William Henderson.

In January Mr William Wallace (Main Street) started a boot repairing business.

Mrs Stevenson was advertising hot peas and beans every week-end, as well as fish suppers.

At Muirkirk Cemetery there were forty-two applicants for the post of Superintendent. Mr Alex. Wilson, Wanlass Place, was appointed.

The Co-operative Dividend was 2/8 per £.

Dr WALFORD BODIE

Last Night (20th February) the Dundas Hall was filled to overflowing, many patrons hanging over the stair railing, the occasion being a visit of the one and only Dr Walford Bodie. The entertainment can be summed up in two words—“great” and “wonderful,” and the patrons were not slow to show their enthusiasm. We understand quite a number of would-be-patrons failed to gain admission. (Dr Bodie was a very talented hypnotist and electric wizard).

May yer mealpock aye be fu',
An' yer table never bare;
Plenty o' money for tae spen',
An' bags o' cash tae spare

NOTES ON MUIRKIRK COINAGE

Almost no silver coins were minted between the accession of George III. in 1760 and 1787. This led to a great scarcity of silver amongst commercial firms. A small issue of shillings, sixpences, and Maundy Money in 1797 and 1798 had little effect in relieving the stringency, so in 1803 the Government issued, and gave permission to private firms to issue, Spanish dollars, which had accumulated in considerable quantity during the many wars with that country. Messrs Boulton and Watt invented ingenious stamping machinery by which the faces of the dollars were imprinted with the likeness of the British King. These were issued as current for 5/-, but private firms issued them as value from 4/- to 6/ The private firms who used the Spanish dollars as a rule did not completely obliterate the Spanish likeness and legend, but contented themselves with various forms of "countermarks." These Spanish dollars are now comparatively rare, as they were exchanged for the new coins of 1817.

It will be news to many Muirkirk people to know that Muirkirk Ironworks issued these in 1809, and that an auction sale of a collection of countermarked dollars and other coins formed by W. J. Davies, C.H., Paris, and exposed by Messrs Glendining, Argyll Gallery, London, on 29th July (only a fortnight ago), a Muirkirk specimen brought the top price of £23.

This is an excerpt from the catalogue describing the coin:— Lot 102—Ar. Ayrshire, Muirkirk Ironworks, Spanish Dollar, 1803, countermarked on reverse in a circle, Muirkirk Ironworks, and in the centre 5/6: On obverse—Payable atk Mills, the remainder of the legend obscured by subsequent countermark with view of the Mills, 1809 below. Davis No. 59. Extremely rare.

An illustration of the obverse of the coin is given, and, as mentioned above, the piece brought the great price of £23.

A BULLOCK AT BAY

On Friday (19th September) about mid-day a large bullock escaped from the byre in connection with the slaughter house at the back of the Co-operative's premises in Main Street. It charged and broke through an iron railing, then cleared a hedge and found its way to the Main Street, next through gardens and then to the Victory Park. There it came to grief in the mud, breaking one of its hind legs. After it had been driven to Main Street again it stood at bay, defying all-comers, for although thus considerably crippled, it charged all who approached it, and the toredors had to look lively. Then followed a rodeo scene, for, a huge rope having been requisitioned, after a number of unsuccessful attempts it was lassoed and rushed to its doom.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION RESULT

Mr JAMES BROWN (Labopur) 11,313

CAPTAIN DUBS (Unionist)..... 11,136

Majority for Brown 177

Last December Mr Brown's majority was 2362, while in the 1922 election he had a majority of 2331.

RAILWAY NEWS

A lecture by Mr T. H. Shields at a meeting of Muirkirk Literary Society revealed some interesting facts. The speaker said that although Stevenson got the credit in the school books of introducing the steam engine, the honour really belonged to William Murdoch, a native of Lugar, resident in England, who introduced the first steam-propelled machine in this country. He was also the inventor of coal gas for commercial use. The steam in Murdoch's engine was raised by a spirit lamp. The first railway in Scotland was between Kilmarnock and Troon, and it is interesting to note that the rails for this railway were made at Glenbuck Ironworks.

In June Mr E. Sanderson commenced business with a Motor and Cycle Engineering Shop at Glasgow Road, in the premises previously occupied by Mr James Donaghy.

SPECIAL WEEK.

**EVERYTHING for
MEN and BOYS.**

Men's L. W. Semmets and Pants from 3/11.

Men's Wool Shirts from 7/6.

Men's Flannelette Shirts from 3/11.

Men's Union Shirts from 4/6.

Men's Grandrille and Twist Shirts from 5/6.

Boys' Shirts and Underwear

for ALL AGES.

Men's Socks. See the Prices—from 8½d pr.

Men's Ties to suit all Tastes.

Men's Caps—Newest Goods.

Men's Wool and Silk-and-Wool Scarfs.

For Chilly Days have one of our
CARDIGANS from 5/6.

SUSPENDERS, BRACES,
COLLARS, Etc.

Great Value in
FLEECY SEMMITS and PANTS from
3/6.

OVERCOATS, Ready to Wear, all Sizes,
See our Range.

— Visit —

STEELE'S,

The House for Value.

Silhouette Salon



Mr DAVID MARTIN, FACTOR,
GLENBUCK

This week we have the pleasure of submitting the silhouette of the genial factor of Glenbuck Estate. The son of a Perthshire farmer, Mr Martin came to the parish about eight years ago, though owing to his being so much to the fore, to the public it seems much longer. Before his advent here he had seen service in several Scottish counties, and owing to his frank manner and genial disposition he was not long in making many friends in the district. His coming coincided with the beginning of the Great War, and all, at least locally, know the prominent part he took in the raising of money for comforts for not only the soldiers themselves, but also for their wives and dependants at home. Mr Martin is an elder of Glenbuck Parish Church, and has a still further tie in being a brother of Rev. Dr Martin, of Peebles, ex-Moderator of the Established Church.



Mr DAVID STITT, J.P.

Mr David Sharpe Stitt is a native of Dumfriesshire, his people being on the land, near Sanquhar, but he was removed to Muirkirk while yet of tender years. He is one of the happy band of pupils who, under the tuition and inspiration of the late Mr Richard Cunningham, of Furnace Road School, have made good.

Our subject began to earn his bread when twelve years of age, when he was a "hinger-on" at the Lightshaw Pit, receiving for his efforts 1/4 per day, or 8/- per week of six days, and by the usual stages blossomed into a hewer of coal. About eleven years ago, on the transference of Mr Alex. Wallace to Kilmarnock, Mr Stitt was chosen as miners' agent here, and in that capacity acted with much acceptance till about five years ago, when he was appointed a Scottish Mineworkers' Political Organiser, with particular charge of South Ayrshire. He has been requested to stand for Parliament in the Labour

interest, but as yet has declined, though possibly in the future he will form one of the gallant band of commoners who have risen from pit-boy to Parliament, and as compared with many of those who have already entered the charmed circle would do himself and the electors credit. Mr Stitt is not a fire-eater, though he has advanced ideas, and has a keen sense of justice. His sympathies are with the toilers, and he is heart and soul in the scheme for their better housing accommodation, facilities, where necessary, for the free education of the clever child right through the University by means of bursaries, and a more equal distribution of the wealth of the country, holding that comparatively few persons have too large incomes, but very many have too small. In his position as political organiser Mr Stitt has been quite successful. In 1918 South Ayrshire was won for Labour for the first time in history, and was retained at the last election, while he has assisted at many other successful contests.

Mr Stitt interests himself in local affairs, being a member of the Parish Council, representative to the District Committee of the County Council, member of the Education Authority, and the Old Age Pensions Committee, as well as a Justice of the Peace for the County, and a member of the Lord Chancellor's Selection Committee of the Commission of the Peace, and has been associated with the local branch of the Independent Labour Party since its inception in 1904.

During the war Mr Stitt took a keen interest in the alleviation of distress on the part of the wives and children of local men on service, and was convener of the Augmentation Fund Sub-Committee of the local War Relief Fund Committee, which was such a pronounced success for the four years, while in connection with food production in that time of stress he took an active part in securing allotments locally, and is presently President of the local Association, and delegate to the Scottish Allotment Holders Association.

Mr Stitt's hobbies are fishing, poultry-keeping, the study of geology, entomology, and botany, and he was one of the leading lights in the now defunct Ramblers' Club, which afforded much pleasure and information through lectures on various subjects.

FOOTBALL

Season 1923-24 looked promising for both local junior teams, but Glenbuck Cherrypickers made an early exit from the "Scottish." Muirkirk Athletic were playing well, and beat Dalry Thistle in the 3rd round, but Dalry protested the tie, and Muirkirk were disqualified, the tie being given to Dalry.

The Cherries, however won the Mauchline Cup by defeating Dailly Thistle 5—1 after a goal-less draw in the first game. The team was:—Weir; Smith, Paton; Sim, Brown, Bernard; Nisbet, Newbigging, Bertram, McCoubrie, Weir.

The scorers were McCoubrie (2), Sim, Bernard, and Nisbet.

That season saw Muirkirk Athletic lift the Southern League Shield when they beat Auchinleck Talbot 2—1 in the final. The team was:—Scade; Bernard, Ballantyne; Anderson, Davidson, Gardiner; McNaughton, Duke, Easton, Gebbie, Paton. Duke and Gebbie scored for the Athletic.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1924**BIRTHS**

- TAYLOR.—At 19 Old Terrace on 7th January to Mr and Mrs M. A. Taylor; a son.
- BROWN.—In U.S.A. on 23rd October, to Mr and Mrs Jack Brown; a son
- LYLE.—At Kilmarnock on 18th November to Mr and Mrs James Lyle, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

- JAMES McWILLIAM to JEAN DEMPSTER on 25th Jan.
- J. A. J. BELL to HELEN LOGGIE at Montreal on 19th May.
- LACHLAN McFARLANE to ISABELLA PEARSON on 3rd June.
- WILLIAM SHED to MARIE BROWN at Transvaal on 11th June.
- ALEXANDER MACINTYRE to AGNES FERGUSON in Ontario on 1st September.
- JAMES BALLANTYNE to NAN PARKER on 28th Nov.
- JOHN DALRYMPLE to AGNES HENDERSON on 4th December.

DEATHS

- WEIR.—At Office Row, Glenbuck, on 30th January, Annie Leggate.
- BRADFORD.—At 45 Springhill Terrace on 28th January, Molly Bradford.
- BROWN.—At Garronhill on 18th February, Effie Brown.
- McKENZIE.—At 3 Springhill Terrace on 21st February, Norman McKenzie, aged 72 years.
- CALLAN.—At Ayr on 4th March, William Callan, aged 76 years (late of West Glenbuck).
- LOGGIE.—Accidentally killed in Kames Pit on 3rd March, George Loggie, aged 53 years (of Garronhill House).
- BROWN.—At Burnbrae on 8th March, Jean Gemmel.
- SAMSON.—At Bridge Street on 19th March, James Samson, aged one year and six months.
- HODGE.—At Mossend, Main Street, on 31st March, Annie Hodge, aged 9 months.
- FERGUSON.—At Railway Buildings on 1st April, Jane Hyslop, aged 46 years.
- CAMPBELL.—At 12 Old Terrace on 13th April, James Campbell, aged 3 months.
- GREENWOOD.—At Main Street on 22nd April, David Barr Greenwood.
- McMILLAN.—At Garronhill on 18th April, Jeannie McMillan, aged 9 months.
- DA'PRATO.—At Main Street on 4th May, Mrs L. Da'Prato, aged 71 years.
- STEVENSON.—At Cumnock on 13th May, David Samson, aged 14 years (of Main Street).

- HAMILTON.—At Cumnock on 31st May, Isabella Nimmo, aged 80 years (late of Smallburn Toll).
- McCLYMONT.—At Kirkburnhead on 28th May, Elizabeth McClure, aged 76 years.
- IRVINE.—At Wellwood Cottage on 26th June, Margaret Rennie, aged 78 years.
- STEVEN.—At 48 Springhill Terrace on 20th July, Robert Steven, aged 80 years.
- PATERSON.—At Glasgow on 26th August, Isabella Stark, aged 44 years.
- BONE.—At Glasgow on 3rd September, James Bone (of Roxburgh Place, Glasgow Road).
- ROBB.—At Ayr on 1st September, Samuel Robb, aged 79 years.
- BLACKWOOD.—At Nessville, Wellwood Street, on 2nd October, Jeanie Rae, aged 55 years.
- HENDERSON.—At Lilybank on 21st October, William Henderson (Butcher), aged 81 years.
- MURDOCH.—At 9 Kames Row on 3rd November, William Murdoch, aged 5 months.
- DEMPSTER.—At Hedge Grove, Annie Murdoch, aged 75 years.

P A V I L I O N .

SIMPSON'S SATURDAY EVENING
ENTERTAINMENT.

Another Big Show. Continuous 6.30—11.

PICTURES & VARIETY.

Two Complete Performances, commencing
6.30 and 9.

Special Engagement of

JACK and KITTY NOYES,

in a 20 Minutes Novel Burlesque Act.
Amusing and Entertaining.

These Artistes will appear at 8 and 10 o'clock.

The Selected 5-part Film entitled—

BLACKBIRDS,

an Exciting Melodrama—Continuous action,
dramatic thrills, an exciting Crook Story with
a Love Romance and a Big Fight Finale.

EVE'S FILM REVIEW, with Fashions.
FELIX.

OH! BUDDY, a 2-part Comedy—a Scream.

Note. The Feature Film—"Blackbirds," will
start screening at 6.45 for the first performance,
and at 9.15 for the second performance.
The complete picture programme will be
screened, and the full entertainment by the
artistes guaranteed at both performances.

 **HALL SPECIALLY HEATED.**

Admission—Balcony 9d, Pit 5d; Children 5d and
3d. All Children must be paid for.

A Quick, Clean, Bright, and Breezy Entertainment.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

(1925)

THE BIG FIRE

The story of 1925 was undoubtedly the fire in Main Street which disrupted the publishing of the "Advertiser." Let the files tell their own story. From the 5th February Issue the Editorial was as follows:—

HALLO! HALLO! HALLO!

Here we are again. No use telling the good folks of Muirkirk and Glenbuck that there was a fire in Muirkirk on the evening of Wednesday, 7th January, or of even reminding them of the fact, but many of our readers outwith the bounds of the parish would doubtless wonder at the non-arrival of the "Advertiser" on 9th January, and its silence since. Our premises were involved in the conflagration on the eve of publication, when most of our type, cases, frames, etc., were destroyed, although the machine-room was saved through the heroic efforts of a few men, to whom, as well as others who removed some of the material from the front building, we tender our warmest thanks.

Through the kindness of the Committee of the Parish Silver Band we have secured the use of the Band Practice Room at Meuse Lane for type-setting until permanent premises are secured, and there it will be our endeavour to serve the public to the best of our ability. Entrance to the premises is via the Stile, and news, advts., and jobs may be handed in there, or given to any of the employees.

So that the "Advertiser" may contain a summary of the happenings of the parish, and the deeds of natives in other spheres, it is our intention to chronicle, even in a brief way, these happenings since the enforced cessation of the paper.

From the same issue:—

DISASTROUS FIRE

About six o'clock on Wednesday evening, 7th January, fire broke out in the building known as Parsonstown House, composed of two storeys and attics, in Main Street, Muirkirk (where now stands Mrs Crosbie's bungalow). The building was occupied by Mr Robert Young, ironmonger; Mrs Martin; and Mr W. S. Smith, printer. Mr Young occupied the house over his shop as well as both attics, while Mrs Martin occupied the dwelling over the case-room of the "Advertiser" Office. Mrs Young was in the back shop, and the first sign of anything wrong was smoke in Mrs Martin's kitchen, then it was found that one of Mr Young's attics was a mass of flames.

The alarm was at once given, but within a short time the flames were shooting through the roof. About half an hour after the outbreak was discovered Kilmarnock Fire Brigade were summoned, and they arrived three hours later, after the

fire was under control, the conveyance having met with difficulties en route.

Willing hands removed furniture, etc., from the building, and as there are practically no fire-fighting appliances in Muirkirk, in the long run the fire burnt itself out, leaving nothing but the gaunt spectacle of bare walls. So fierce were the flames that at one time it was feared that the fire would spread to the neighbouring buildings, and from these, too, furniture was removed in double-quick time and attention was also paid to, if possible, saving the building at the back containing valuable printing machinery. The heat from the fire cracked several panes of glass across the street. Fortunately, the fire was contained to the building of its source, and by heroic efforts the printing machine room was saved.

The damages, which amounted to somewhere about £3000, were largely covered by insurance.

While the fire was at its height, and willing helpers were endeavouring to save the belongings of the unfortunates, others it appears were helping themselves, and the sequel has heard at Cumnock J.P. Court, when six persons were fined in sums ranging from £1 to £2, although it is very questionable if these were the real culprits. On the Sunday following, the Parish minister, as guardian of the public morals, delivered a scathing indictment on the wrong-doers from the pulpit. He advocated common honesty, and spoke of the honour of Muirkirk, but said this was an utter disgrace.

And from the 2nd April Issue:—

During the next few weeks advertisements and news for each week's issue of the "Advertiser" will require to reach us not later than mid-day on the Wednesdays, this through the machine with which the sheet is printed being dismantled for removal to our other premises, and the necessity of having the "Advertiser" machined elsewhere.

"Business as usual," however. We are delighted to attend to everyone's wants in the printing line.

In the 7th May Issue the following advertisement appeared, and this was the only intimation that the "Advertiser" had moved premises

THE

**Lesser
Temperance Hall**

Now Houses the

**"MUIRKIRK
ADVERTISER"**

Your Every want in
the PRINTING LINE

attended to.

MINING INDUSTRY

Mr George S. Hunter, Glasgow Road, obtained a First Class Colliery Manager's Certificate.

There appeared to be some unrest in the mining industry both locally and nationally, although the reporting of events in the "Advertiser" were rather sketchy. These are quotes from the relevant issues:—

21st May.—In common with other mining districts, this parish is now feeling the draught of want of orders. At the same time, Muirkirk has been on velvet compared with many districts, for while the latter have had much broken time, up till this there have been practically none here. Last week a day or two was lost, as well as Tuesday of this week, and on the latter day over 700 miners signed on at the local bureau. For the occasion the bureau changed its quarters—the Dundas Hall being requisitioned. Since Tuesday the pits have been working. A dose of idleness makes one all the keener for work. "No work, no pay," you know.

25th June.—A large percentage of miners who went to Ireland some months ago in search of fortune have returned to the district. Latterly terms were offered them which they felt were unacceptable.

30th July.—In connection with the threatened stoppage in the coal mining industry the local miners are playing the game of "wait and see," the while the heid anes are planning and seeking a way out. A notice in the following terms is posted up at the office of Messrs Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd., here:—In view of the termination of the National Agreement on 31st July, 1925, notice is hereby given that all contracts of service with this Company will terminate on the same date—31st July, 1925. This Colliery will be open for work on and after 1st August, on terms and conditions which will be posted up before that date." Naturally, everybody wishes a way out of the difficulty will be found, and that no stoppage will take place. The position is at least hopeful.

6th August.—Like other centres of the coal industry there was a feeling of relief here on Friday night when it became known that the threatened stoppage had been averted, and the rent at least patched up for the present. It is hoped some permanent and satisfactory solution will soon be found whereby industrial peace and contentment may reign. In this age of enlightenment and unlimited resources there should be no need to fight for an existence, fight who may for the frills.

20th August.—The local miners are experiencing a lean presently, being idle on Saturday, Monday, and again yesterday.

No more was mentioned of the unrest that year.

LAMB WORRYING

Twenty-Nine lambs were found destroyed in the district, and a further six were found on Sunday (3rd May), but a watch was kept and a dog was chased at Tardoes and followed to Kirkgreen where it paid the penalty. Another dog was traced to Main Street, where it met a similar fate.

BUSINESS NEWS

There was a lot of stir in the business life of the village in 1925, and readers might find the following notes of some interest.

John Kay took over the Motor Hiring business previously carried on by the late Mr David Greenwood at Victoria Buildings.

George Shanks succeeded Mr William Hodge as Watchmaker and Jeweller in Main Street.

W. Brodie opened a Grocery business at Victoria House, Main Street.

Misses J. B. & E. McLuckie took over the Millinery business previously run by Miss Burnie.

John Buchanan, Plumber and Gasfitter, took over the business previously carried on by his father, Neil Buchanan.

Miss Stevenson retired from the Dairy Business at Woodend, Smallburn, and was succeeded by Mr Thomas Loggie.

It was intimated that the Drapery Business of the late Mr Robert Jack would be carried on under the name of The Bonanza.

James Lochhead, Jnr., intimated he had acquired a reliable motor lorry, and would be open for the business of contracting and removals, etc.

Mr Alec DaPrato opened a new Fish and Chip Shop at the Shed-end, which was situated at the top of the steps at the Masons Arms Hotel

Sanderson Brothers announced that they had taken over the shop occupied by Bone & Neilson, where they hoped to carry on their Motor and Cycle Engineers business, which was previously run from premises in the Glasgow Road,

The Royal Arms in the village of Glenbuck was advertised for sale

FOOTBALL

Muirkirk Athletic got off to a great start in season 1924-25, and opened with an unbeaten run of twelve games before coming a cropper in the second round of the Scottish Cup, losing 1—0 away to Pollok. However, along with the Cherries they reached the semi-final stages of several Ayrshire competitions.

It was left to the Athletic to bring home the silverware in the form of the Mauchline Cup, beating Kello Rovers 1-0 in the final. The team was:—Scade; Ballantyne, Wallace; Anderson, Davidson, Thomas; Smith Gardiner, Easton, Mitchell, Menzies. The goal was scored by Mitchell from the penalty spot

QUOITING

Muirkirk Cairntable Quoting Club won the Ayrshire Championship by beating Riccarton 97-67, and John Kilpatrick, Muirkirk's own champion, won a match for £200 by beating Robert McBride, Larkhall.

OBITUARY

Last week (21st May) death claimed two of the oldest residents in the district, and both were of the farming fraternity—Mr James Johnston, Airdsgreen, and Mr Alex. Park, Limmerhaugh. Mr Johnstone was 78 years of age and Mr Park 84. It is a coincidence that both were born on the farms at which they died, their fathers having been tenants before them, but both were out and about a day or two before being called hence. Naturally both were well known, and Mr Johnston was a bit of a wit. Only a few days before his death, when on a visit to Muirkirk, he told a local merchant that he didn't visit his shop out of any respect he had for the shop-keeper, "but yer faither was an awfu' daicent man."

FIRE AT GLENBUCK

Fire broke out on Saturday forenoon in Hillside Cottage, owned and occupied by Mr Forbes Marshall. The fire originated in one of the attics, and had got a good grip of the building before it was discovered. Saturday being the working day few men were about, but those who were there made heroic efforts to save the building, assisted by about every woman about the village, the latter playing a noble part in keeping the men supplied with water. All kinds of receptacles in the way of buckets, pails, jelly pans, etc., were brought into use. The efforts of the workers were of little avail, however, as there was a strong wind blowing, and soon the whole building was enveloped in flames. Attention was then turned to the buildings close by, and great excitement prevailed when it was seen that there was grave danger of Dalziel's Buildings and Vass's Buildings being caught by the flames, which stretched across the road. Indeed a part of Vass's Buildings actually caught fire, and a special effort had to be made to check what might have had very serious results. By this time nearly all the occupants of the two buildings had practically all their furniture removed out to the back green. When the fire was discovered the Ayr Fire Brigade was phoned for, and lost no time in being on the scene, considerably less than an hour having elapsed from the 'phone call till the firemen were on the spot, but by that time Hillside was burned to the ground. The furniture in the lower flat was saved. The damage, which is estimated at £5500, was mostly covered by insurance. The cause of the fire is unknown.

WELLWOOD ESTATE

For some considerable time negotiations have been proceeding between Mrs Broun Lindsay and Messrs Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd., with regard to Wellwood Estate, and we learn that Messrs Baird have just completed the purchase of the Southern portion of the estate, roughly the part lying south of the watershed between River Ayr and the Greenock Water. Truly, the old order changeth, giving place to new

NEW BAKERY

In July Muirkirk Co-operative Society announced the opening of their new Baker and Confectionery Department. The Shop was in Blackwood's Buildings, opposite the foot of the Glasgow Road (later to become Wilson's Newsagents, Wylties, and now the Ladies' Hairdresser.

BREACH OF PROMISE ACTION

A breach of promise action brought by Jenny McCall, Garrohill House, against James Girdwood, Harkness's Buildings, for £250 damages for breach of promise of marriage has heard at Ayr Sheriff Court on 23rd October. After a lengthy case, in his interlocutor, The Sheriff says that he finds in fact that the defender wrongfully broke his promise to the pursuer's pecuniary loss and damage to her feelings, and that in law the defender is liable in damages to the pursuer for the said breach of promise; assessing the damages at £10 for pecuniary loss in preparation for the marriage, and at £70 for injury to feelings and prospective loss, and finds the defender liable to the pursuer in expenses.

WATER AND DRAINAGE PLEBISCITE

The following is the result of the plebiscite taken recently in connection with the proposed augmented Water and Drainage Scheme:—

No	249
Yes	207
Water Only	2
Declined to Vote	39

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULT**Village Ward—4 Seats**

Colthart, John	389
Henderson, John	386
Steven, Robert	331
McCulloch, John	305
Williamson, James	294
Mackie, Peter	285
Pringle, Andrew	278
Wilson, Robert	213

Ironworks Ward—3 Seats

Bone, George	271
McKenzie, Norman	269
Stitt, David	262
Young, John	170

Glenbuck Ward—2 Seats

Crosbie, Andrew	129
Ward, Robert	100
Crosbie, Robert	98

Landward—2 Seats—No Poll

Craig, James
Kerr, John

AN OLD PONY

The other day (September 4) the death occurred of an old pony that was the subject of some correspondence in the newspapers a few years ago. There was a competition to see who had the oldest pony in Scotland, and "Darkie," the property of Mr Thomas Henderson, Smallburn, was decided the winner. Darkie was 37½ years old, and had been in Mr Henderson's possession for 34 years. The pony was a great favourite with the locals.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1925**BIRTHS**

- BELL.—In U.S.A. on 9th May to Mr and Mrs J. A. Bell; a daughter.
- BIRRELL.—In U.S.A. on 6th July, Mrs Robert Birrell (nee Maggie Hogg); a daughter.
- McMEEKAN.—At Dalbeattie on 31st August, to Mr and Mrs James McMeekin (nee Jean Calsow); a son.
- McCARTNEY.—At Ardrossan on 21st October, to Mr and Mrs William McCartney; a daughter

MARRIAGES

- GEORGE BUNNISS to JEAN STEVEN on 21st March.
- WM. GOULDSTONE to ANNIE KIRKWOOD on 10th July.
- JOHN CAMERON to MAY SMYLLIE on 1st September
- THOS SANDERSON to JANET WILSON on 26th Nov.
- ALEX. LINDSAY to PEGGY URQUHART on 3rd Dec.

DEATHS

- THOMSON.—As the result of an accident at Kames Pit on 12th January, George Thomson, aged 25 years.
- McFEGAN.—At Bankhead on 13th February, William McFegan, aged 8 years.
- VALLANCE.—At Glasgow on 9th March, William Vallance (Butcher), aged 70 years (late of Muirkirk).
- ARCHIBALD.—At Manse Lane on 23rd March, Robert Archibald, aged 70 years.
- SAMSON.—At Albert Place on 22nd March, Rosina Love, aged 56 years.
- TOWLE.—At Smallburn on 21st March, Agnes Hazle, aged 1 year and 10 months.
- JACK.—At Elmdene on 27th March, Robert Jack, aged 56 years.
- LANCELLOS.—At 16 Springhill Terrace on 30th March, Mrs Lancellos, aged 65 years.
- MENZIES.—At 16 Park Terrace on 5th April, Christina Menzies, aged 20 months.
- LOVE.—At Helenlea, Main Street, on 6th April, James Love, aged 64 years.
- DUNBAR.—In Spain on 11th April, Thomas Dunbar (late of Muirkirk).
- McDONALD.—At Wanlass Place on 25th April, Wee Nan, aged 15 months.
- MACKENZIE.—At 51 New Terrace on 25th April, Wee Alex., twin son, aged 18 months.
- BANKS.—At 20 Midhouse Row on 4th May, Catherine Lindsay, aged 48 years.
- STEELE.—At Annan on 6th May, Andrew Steele, aged 81 years.
- TAIT.—At Blyth's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 6th May, Wee Tom, aged 2 years and 2 months.
- PARK.—At Limmerhaugh on 20th May, Alexander Park (Farmer), aged 84 years.

- BEGG.—At 7 Springhill Terrace on 1st June, James Begg, aged 60 years.
- HAZEL.—At Bridge Street on 26th June, Grace Hazel, aged 2 years.
- QUEEN.—At Cumnock on 30th July, Sadie Queen, aged 2½ years (of Garronhill).
- MULLHOLLAND.—In New Zealand on 28th June, Martha Mulholland, aged 3 years and 9 months.
- GIBSON.—At Furnace Road on 17th August, Janet Gibson.
- HIGGINS.—The result of an accident on 23rd August, Mary Higgins, aged 13 years (of Garronhill House).
- SCOTT.—In U.S.A. on 8th August, Agnes Brown, aged 66 years; also on 9th August at same address, William Scott (son of above), aged 30 years. (Both late of Fergus Place).
- WEIR.—At Renfrew on 4th September, Thomas Weir (late of Muirkirk), aged 86 years.
- PURDIE.—At Glasgow on 17th September, Agnes Hill, aged 70 years.
- HODGE.—At Baird Institute on 5th October, John Hodge (Caretaker), aged 84 years.
- LITTLE.—At Co-operative Buildings on 19th October, John Little, aged 33 years.
- ANDERSON.—At Linkieburn Square on 28th November, Thomas Anderson, aged 83 years.

SEEN AND HEARD

- "Prim," a greyhound belonging to Mr W. Anderson, Kirk-green won the Carfin Handicap out of an entry of 300.
- From 246 applications, Mr Thomas Picken, Dumbarton, was appointed caretaker of the Ironworks Institute.
- We understand that a vein of barytes has been found in the Parish.
- Muirkirk Tar-mac Cycling and Tennis Club held a 2-day carnival and sale to raise funds for the new tennis courts at Victory Park. £162 was realised.
- In March the Pavilion changed hands—the new lessee being Mr H. N. Morton, Cumnock.
- Mr David Floyd was appointed greenkeeper at Muirkirk Bowling Green
- Thirty-four applications were received for the post of janitorship at the Ironworks Institute. Mr Smellie, Glasgow, was appointed.
- The ruins of Parsonstown House, site of the recent fire, has been purchased by Mr Robert Young, Plumber.
- The licence for the Royal Hotel, Glenbuck, was transferred to Mr John Wilson, Empire Bar, Muirkirk, and the licence for the Douglas Arms, Muirkirk, was transferred to M. Prendergast. An application by George Bain, Glenbuck, for a full grocery licence was turned down.
- The Pavilion changed hands again in May—Mr John R. Kay; Muirkirk, being the new owner.
- The Gala Bus Company started a service to Douglas and Lanark, and an Ayr Co. started a service to Cumnock.
- Tennis Courts opened in Victory Park, and shortly afterwards a putting green was established.
- Mr William McCulloch, Irondale House, gained his Diploma at Glasgow School of Art.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

(1926)

1926 proved to be a dark year as far as the mining community was concerned, and the general strike caused great hardship in the village. A diary of events were chronicled in the "Advertiser" as follows:—

THE INDUSTRIAL UPHEAVAL

(6th May Issue)

In common with all other places in Britain, this district is presently in the throes of a strike. The period of the Government subsidy to the mining industry came to an end on 30th April, and, the terms offered the miners by the employers being considered unacceptable, work in the mines stopped on Friday evening.

The miners handed over their case to the Trades Union Congress General Council, and the Government endeavoured to act as mediator, but negotiations were latterly abruptly broken off. The safety men only are on duty at the pits, and at time of writing the horses in the local mines are still underground.

In sympathy with the position of the miners, the employees of the railways also stopped work on Monday evening, and no trains have left or arrived at Muirkirk station since that evening.

The Station for the present is deserted. The 'buses connecting with Lanark stopped running on Monday night, and the Ayrshire 'buses on Wednesday evening.

On Tuesday morning a Royal Mail motor van arrived at Muirkirk Post Office with the mail, which consisted of two letters and a newspaper, although a goodly bag was despatched by the same conveyance. It is expected that this will be continued each morning during the struggle, and there will also be a despatch of letters each evening should opportunity permit. All packets are presently limited to eight ounces in weight.

Newspapers, mostly abbreviated, are arriving only intermittently, but the "wireless" fills the breach to a certain extent in the matter of news.

Lorries are being utilised for the transport of foodstuff to the town. In response to a request from Ayr, a list of the local stocks of several commodities has been sent to the county town.

Stocks of coal are small, but in a mining district there should be no great dearth of coal for necessary purposes. At the Gas Works it is considered that the supply of coal will last about three weeks.

The miners and the railwaymen have held several meetings.

Presently it is a case of quiet resistance, although everything points to a titanic struggle. Let us hope that right and justice will prevail, with contentment following in its wake, and without which there can be no real and lasting peace.

From the 13th May Issue:—

END OF GENERAL STRIKE

Intimation of the decision of the Trades Union Congress General Council to withdraw the general strike was heard by wireless yesterday afternoon shortly after one o'clock, and was received with mixed feelings locally. Disappointment was expressed that there was no reference to a settlement with the miners being conditional as to its withdrawal. The Ayrshire 'buses resumed operations this morning. Up till time of writing no trains have left or arrived at Muirkirk Station, evidently the Railway Company's time for resuming business having not yet arrived.

SOME STRIKE ITEMS

The call for voluntary workers in Muirkirk brought forth some response, while several offered their services as special constables.

On Friday night a meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, when arrangements were made for a system of rationing for the strikers and their families.

Within a few minutes of the intimation of the withdrawal of the general strike, a pug engine and a few waggons were on their way to Glenbuck.

The only other steam to be seen about the place during the past week was from an engine on the Caley on Tuesday, which brought some vans of food to the town, and a few steam engines on the road.

For two days last week-end the parish pupils attending Cumnock School had a holiday, as there were no 'buses. However, a start was again made on Monday morning, the 'bus conveying school pupils and superintendents only.

There has been no coal in Muirkirk on sale during the last few days. The Fuel Overseer at Ayr was tapped on the matter, and he reported that Muirkirk's share was two waggons per week, but where the two waggons were to come from was the difficulty.

Foodstuff came through all right by road, and it was considered unnecessary to adopt any system of rationing.

No milk was left in the district since the railways discontinued functioning, and those farmers who usually send away their milk have been making butter and cheese instead.

Mails have reached Muirkirk every day during the strike, and there have been two despatches daily, opportunity having been taken by the postmistress to utilise the services of reliable carriers.

Several pits have within the last day or two, or night or two, been sunk on the Marquis of Bute's new estate, but no fortunes have been made.

It is intimated that postal regulations are now back to normal, with regards to both parcels and letter postage.

From the 20th May Issue:—

Coal was being retailed by the legitimate trade on the streets on Tuesday. It is also being got otherwise in the district—more cheaply, though not more easily.

From the 27th May Issue:—**PIT HORSES DRAWN**

An unhappy omen of the strike was in evidence on Monday and Tuesday last at Kames Pithead, when nineteen horses were brought to the surface, and are, along with the Grasshill Pit chargers, grazing in the vicinity of the town. Quite a crowd witnessed the drawing operations.

RATIONING

The rationing scheme seems to be functioning satisfactorily, and as a rule the strikers and their families are quite content. The strikers are supplied with rations of bread, and other necessaries, through the Co-operative Society, on account of the local Miners' Union. The funds of the Union are quite healthy, and it is expected will suffice for other six or eight weeks.

From the 3rd June Issue:—**FEEDING**

The communal feeding of the necessitous children of school age by the Education Authority began yesterday. They receive breakfast and tea in the various schools, while the mid-day meal is served at the Temperance Hall. For the Saturday and Sunday rations vouchers are handed to the children for bread, butter, and milk, for which they choose their own vendors. 367 children attending the three Muirkirk Schools dined in the Temperance Hall yesterday, this number being slightly increased to-day.

From the 10th June Issue:—

The communal feeding of the necessitous school children continues, and arrangements seem to be entirely satisfactory. At first a number, perhaps over a hundred, who were not eligible, were getting meals, but the roll has now been purged, and the number presently stands at 453 for the parish, with Quarter-Master James McCartney in command.

From the 17th June Issue:—

There is little doing yet with regard a settlement of the coal dispute, but meantime everything points to a longer working day. All is quiet locally, and most orderly. The home fires are being kept burning by the miners occasionally visiting the dirt bings in the neighbourhood and picking out the coal into sacks. It passes the time on good days, and provides heat and cheer on the bad uns.

From the 8th July Issue:—

The feeding of the local children during the school vacation is being conducted in the Temperance Hall centre. The town contingent receive three meals per day in the hall, while the food for the Southside children is conveyed to an empty house in one of the rows, and distributed from there.

THE MINING CRISIS

Notices of the new terms offered by the Colliery owners were posted in the local pits on Monday. An outstanding feature of the miners' terms is that they provide for the continuation of the pre-stoppage rates of pay till 30th September, on the basis of the underground working shift being increased by one hour.

Locally, the terms have been received with mixed feelings

the general tendency being to bogle at the eight hours. The following are the terms of the notice:—

NOTICE

On the footing that the hours below are increased by one hour per shift and that the surface workers work a normal week of 49 hours, this Colliery will open for work for such men as are required on the following conditions:—

Wages as from Date of Resumption of Work and until 30th September, 1926

From the date when work is resumed, until September 30, 1926, wages will be payable on a percentage of 133.33 above the 1888 basis (this being the percentage which operated before the stoppage on May 1 last), subject to a re-adjustment of the tonnage and other pieceworkers' rates by a percentage corresponding to the addition made to rates when hours of work were reduced by Statute from eight to seven.

Wages During October, 1926

During October wages will be paid on the basis of an ascertainment for Scotland for the period from the termination of the general stoppage till August 31, allocating to wages 87 per cent. of the surplus after deducting from the proceeds of the sale of coal costs other than wages, subsistence allowances and additions, but during October and for such period thereafter as may be arranged, the district minimum percentage shall not fall below 110 per cent. above the 1888 basis, this being the minimum percentage in operation from 1921 to 1924.

Workers Previously Receiving Subsistence Allowances and Additions

In the case of day-wage workers whose wages in April was included subsistence allowances and additions these allowances and additions will be payable until September 30, 1926. During October, 1926, the wage and allowances of such workers will be subject to readjustment, having regard to such percentage alterations as may be made as the result of the Ascertainment.

GAS SHORTAGE (29th July Issue)

Owing to the limited supply of coal at the local Gas Works, the gas supply has been restricted meantime. The supply is presently available from 4 a.m. till 11 a.m., with the exception of Sundays, when gas will be available from 12 noon till 1 p.m. As a result the Picture House will be closed down till normal times are reached again.

STRIKE RELIEF (19th August Issue)

With the strike now in its 17th week, the resources of many mining communities are practically at an end, and as compared with other districts, including neighbouring ones, Muirkirk is most fortunate. Doubtless, the funds here have been well nursed, the communal system of feeding of those

concerned in the struggle having been systematically arranged and satisfactorily carried out, and while in other districts allowances are to be stopped or have stopped, it seems as if Muirkirk will be able to carry on. The needs of the children under school age are being attended to through the local Child Welfare Committee, the Education Authority are feeding those of school age, while the sum of £60 a week is given by the Parish Council in allowances to the miners' wives through the local Miners' Union. The total liabilities this Area (including seven Parishes) for the feeding of the children up till last week was £4,272.

COAL OWNERS AND ENGINEMEN AGREE

(26th August Issue)

We have been favoured with a fac-simile copy of the memorandum of the new agreement between the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coal Owners' Association and the South Wales and Monmouthshire Colliery, Enginemmen, Boilermen, and Craftsmen's Association. As it is held in some quarters that the agreement may form the basis on which the present coal strike may be finally settled, we give the following excerpts, but anyone interested can examine the text at the "Advertiser" Office.

A joint Committee shall be established for the purpose of dealing with disputes and questions arising between the parties subject hereto.

The wages payable shall be the 1915 Standard Base Rates applicable to the different classes of workmen, plus the percentage hereinafter provided.

The wages to be paid by the Owners during the month of August and September, 1926, shall be the 1915 Standard Base Rates with 42.22 per cent. added thereto, together with such allowance as will give a Subsistence Wage of 8/0¼ to married and single workmen under the conditions operating in April, 1926.

The amount of the percentage to be paid during any period shall be determined by the results of the industry in the district comprising the collieries, but the minimum wages payable shall in no event be less than the 1915 Standard Base Rates applicable to the different classes of workmen with 28 per cent. added hereto.

In order to determine the percentage payable in the district in accordance with Clause 4, eighty-seven per cent. of the difference between the proceeds and the costs of production other than wages in the district during the period of ascertainment shall be taken.

The amount and conditions of payment of Subsistence Wage shall be mutually agreed between the Owners and Workmens' Representatives, and failing agreement shall be referred to an Independent Chairman for final decision.

The Owners or the Workmens' representatives shall have the right to request at the end of each succeeding period of twelve months a revision of the Subsistence Allowance, and failing mutual agreement, the matter shall be referred to an Independent Chairman for final decision.

The hours of labour of workmen employed below ground shall be eight hours, exclusive of meal hours.

Workmen on the afternoon and night shifts shall be paid six turns for five worked.

An effective double shift shall be worked when and where required by the Owners.

The workmen, except continuous shift men, shall be entitled to 12 General Holidays in each year.

The supply of house coal to workmen living in apartments shall be as follows:—Married or single workmen living with and supporting dependants, viz., heads of families in apartments and occupying separate rooms, to be allowed six tons per annum subject to the total allowance for the home not exceeding 15 tons.

Any dispute between any Colliery Company and any workman subject hereto shall in the first instance be dealt with at the Colliery between responsible colliery officials and such workman or his authorised agent, and failing agreement at the Colliery shall be referred to the said Joint Committee.

All notices to terminate individual contracts shall be of the length of fourteen days to be given at any time.

This agreement shall continue in force until terminated by three calendar months' notice on either side.

From the 16th September Issue:—

Coal howking from the outcrops and gathering from the dirt bings under the control of Messrs Wm. Baird & Co., Ltd., was officially stopped on Saturday last.

From the 21st October Issue:—

On Friday evening last a meeting of the members of the local Miners' Union was held in the Dundas Hall, when it was decided that rations be discontinued on and after Tuesday, 26th October, and also, that a ballot of the men be taken to ascertain whether they were in favour of continuing on strike or of resuming work.

On Saturday a meeting of Glenbuck men was held, when it was decided to remain on strike.

On Sunday evening a public meeting was held in the Dundas Hall, when an address was given by Mr James Brown, M.P., who counselled the miners not to return to work meantime, as he believed that within the next few weeks better terms would be got than were now offered by the employees.

On Monday a ballot of the Muirkirk men was taken, but so far we understand the votes have not been counted. No miners are working in the Parish.

From the 28th July Issue:—

The local miners held a meeting in the Dundas Hall last Thursday, when Mr John McCall presided over a large attendance. Mr Brown, M.P.; Mr Hood, Kilmarnock; Mr Smith, Kilwinning; and Mr Colthart were the speakers, and they urged the miners to remain out. It was decided to abandon the ballot, and that negotiations be made to continue the rations for another week.

From the 18th November Issue:—

A miners' meeting was held in the Dundas Hall on Tuesday evening, when Mr John McCall presided over a very large attendance. Mr John Colthart was the speaker, and the busi-

ness was the consideration of the Government's terms. It was unanimously agreed to accept the terms, while it was agreed to stay out till the Federation called the strike off. On a vote being taken, only three voted for work the following day.

From the 25th November Issue:—

On Sunday a meeting of the local miners was held in the Dundas Hall to consider the question of resuming work or acting on the decision of the Federation, and it was unanimously decided to hold out meantime in the hope that better terms might be obtained.

A requisition meeting was held on Tuesday night to consider the subject, several of the men having resumed work, when it was again agreed, by a large majority, to stick to the Federation.

From the 2nd December Issue:—

MINERS STRIKE ENDED

The representatives of the Scottish mine-owners and miners at their conference last week in Glasgow finally agreed on terms, which afterwards received the blessing of the miners themselves.

A meeting of the local miners was held in the Dundas Hall on Sunday, when Mr Colthart endeavoured to explain the terms of the settlement, stating that although the terms were not good he believed they were the best that could be obtained. He reviewed how wages of shift men would remain until 30th April, 1927, as they were in April, 1926, but piece-workers' rates would be reduced by 12.25 per cent. to cover the extra hour worked. Commencing on 1st May, 1927, shift workers' wages might be reduced to the standard ruling from 1921 to 1924, ton rates again being reduced in proportion. The agreement, Mr Colthart said, afforded anything but satisfaction, and only men driven by destitution could possibly accept such terms, as every clause in the agreement sought to further protect the colliery owners. Most of the reports in the Press represented surpluses (after other costs were deducted) as being allocated on the same ratio as prevailed since 1924, but that was grossly inaccurate. In 1924 subsistence and extra time allowances were charged against "other costs;" they were now to be charged directly against the miners' 87 per cent, and this amounted to approximately £20,000 per month in Scotland. In Clause 6 of the agreement the owners claimed consideration of new capital and an allowance for amortisation, which in the speaker's opinion meant that any capital necessary during the last seven months to keep the mines in condition must be paid by the miners, while no consideration was given to their losses. Mr Colthart paid a compliment to the local management in doing their utmost to reinstate every man at his former work as speedily as possible, and arrangements had been made whereby Kames men could all resume on Monday. Grasshill, was less fortunately placed, but he felt confident no time would be lost in obtaining a complete return.

Nearly all the men in Kames started on Monday, a number being on the afternoon shift.

Fully half the men in Grasshill Pit are back on duty. The others will be employed when the conditions of the workings permit.

According to the terms accepted by the Scottish miners—

The owners will pay the same wages as before the strike, but the time below ground shall be increased by one hour per shift, and surface workers shall work a normal week of 49 hours. This will be continued up till April 30 next, and afterwards the wages will be decided by the earnings of the mines. The minimum wage, however, shall not be less than 110 per cent. above the 1888 level, the minimum which was in operation from July, 1921, till June, 1924. The minimum wage on which hewers now start—9/4 per shift—is 133.3 per cent above the 1888 level. The 1888 wage for a facemen was 4/- per shift, so that the minimum wage for these cannot fall below 8/4.8.

Subsistence wages will be regulated by the same procedure.

To regulate the wages a Conciliation Board is to be set up, with an independent chairman.

The agreement is for a period of three years, commencing 1st May next, and will be subject to termination by either side giving two months' notice before that period ends.

Everybody seems highly satisfied that the wheels of our local industry are again on the move.

Owing to the transfer of Mr John McCulloch, Manager of Kames Colliery, to Whitehill Colliery, Cumnock; Mr Dan Cook has been transferred from Grasshill Colliery to Kames; and Mr Trewsdale, from the Prestwick district, is now officiating at Glenbuck in place of Mr Cook.

And finally, from the 9th December Issue:—

Tuesday saw the last of the dealing of rations to the dependants of destitute miners, consequent upon the strike. The feeding of the school children of destitute parents ends to-morrow (Friday).

A STRIKE AFTERMATH

At Cumnock J.P. Court on Monday, Muirkirk was well represented. For their efforts to produce warmth and food they were called to the Spa "tae answer for't." A fine line seems to have been drawn the various offences—all minor offences, fortunately.

For instance, to take good coal from a waggon was considered a greater offence (20/- was the penalty) than to take a poor quality of coal (15/-), and to hawk the coal from outcrops was less still, and quite right, too (10/-). For taking turnips 20/- was the penalty. An alternative of being guest of His Majesty for a few days was offered in each case, and also tick. In at least on instance the £1 was forked out on the spot. There was a company of eighteen from Muirkirk.

SEEN AND HEARD

The death was announced of Mr James Clark, J.P., formerly of Crossflatt Farm.

Under the auspices of Muirkirk Athletic, William Malley, manager of Celtic Football Club, was guest speaker at a function in the Dundas Hall. The Scottish Cup, which Celtic had won the previous season was on display.

In January work was commenced on the Council houses at Wellwood Crescent.

Within a few months three founder members of Muirkirk Co-operative Society, had died, namely Mr Thomas Weir (President), Mr William McCall (Committee Member), and in March, Mr William Hogg (Treasurer). All had been members since the Society's inception in 1885.

Mr David Crosbie, New Cumnock, granted grocer's licence for Main Street, and Mr David McVey, Glasgow, was granted a licence for the Douglas Arms, Main Street. Business hours for public houses were fixed as 11 till 3 and 5 till 9 p.m.

Part of Muirkirk Estate has again changed hands—all south of the Railway, including Auldhouseburn Estate and Nether Wellwood. We understand the Marquis of Bute is the purchaser.

Swings were erected on the Southside in line with Park Terrace.

Rankin Brothers started a 'bus service from Muirkirk to Glasgow via Strathaven.

A case of anthrax was reported at Nether Wellwood.

An old clay pipe, complete with brass lid and chain attached, was found at Glenbraehead, near Tibbie's Brig.

An attempt to produce gas from a mixture of clay and blaes proved a dismal failure at Muirkirk Gas Works.

INTERESTING FIND

While some workmen were preparing the ground for a gutter in front of Ashbank Cottage, Smallburn, they came upon a cart-weighing machine embedded in the earth at a depth of about a foot. It was composed of the usual large flat surface of iron, with connecting rod, all in position, and in a good state of preservation. No one present was aware of the existence of the machine, and speculation was rife as to its age. However, we have ascertained that something under or about fifty years ago the machine was installed there as a private speculation, for the public weighing of carts and their contents, at sixpence a time, the owner being Betty Riddell, who also kept a sweetie shop in the adjacent building, but so scant was the patronage of the weighing machine that it fell into disuse after a few years, and was evidently simply covered up. On Tuesday, as it could not be removed whole, the machine was broken up to make way for the kerb stones.

LOCAL STATISTICS, 1925

Births	105
Marriages	25
Deaths	45

The number of births registered is (with the exception of 1921 when the number was 90) is the lowest since 1857, when 101 were registered.

BUSINESS CHANGES

New advertisers in the paper that year were George Shanks, Watchmaker and Jeweller, Main Street; and Robert Thomson, (known locally as "The Dandies"), general dealer, Furnace Road; and Crosbie's the Grocer, who operated from Main Street; as also did John A. Geddes, as a Tailor and Outfitter.

Mrs Allan Loggie's Ice Cream and Fish & Chip Shop in Furnace Road was a popular one, while at the other end of the town Thomas Rowe was advertising his motor hiring business.

In August, Thomas Wilson, Jr., opened a Newsagents at the foot of the Glasgow Road (next to DaPrato's).

In October John D. Dunbar, Grain Merchant, Furnace Road, retired from business.

The Newsagents business carried on in Main Street by Mr Walter Weir was taken over by Mr Hugh Caldwell, The Isle.

FOOTBALL (Season 1925-26)

Muirkirk Athletic started the new season in great style, beating Dalry Thistle 7-3 in the 1st round of the Scottish Cup. In the second they were drawn away to Glasgow side, Benburb, and returned with a 3—3 draw, being 3—1 up at one stage. In the replay at Ladeside Park the Athletic played well to win 2—1. A protest against a home player was upheld, and the game was replayed at Muirkirk, when on this occasion Athletic were leading 2—1 when the referee abandoned the match with ten minutes to go. The replay took place the following Saturday when a 1—1 draw was the outcome. The fifth game was played at Irvine, and this time Athletic emerged victorious by 2—1, but Benburb lodge a protest against another Muirkirk player.

The protest was considered by the S.J.F.A. Benburb claimed the tie, alleging that Muirkirk had played A. Rankin knowing that he was a signed player for Twechar Rangers, but after the Muirkirk Secretary produced a letter which at once cleared the Athletic of any knowledge of a previous signing, the Benburb representative admitted that he had no proof and apologised. However, the Govan Club was granted a replay. The Association Committee sympathised with the Muirkirk Club in their being grossly misled, while player Rankin's share of the blessing was some scathing remarks and suspension sine die. Both clubs were warned that if an ineligible player took part in the replay, should either club protest and the infringement be proved, the offending club would be disqualified.

The replay took place at Irvine, and for the first time in the tie Benburb won 2—0.

This was a big disappointment for the Athletic, but they did get some consolation that season, when they beat Kello Rovers 4—2 in the final of the Ayr and District Cup. The team was:—Scade; Ballantyne, Thomas; Anderson, Williamson, Findlay; McLaughlan, Aaron, Easton, Mitchell, Watson. The scorers were Watson, Easton, Williamson, and Aaron.

That season Glenbuck Cherrypickers scratched to New Cumnock in the semi-final of the Coyllton Cup owing to financial difficulties, and were forced to shut shop for the season for want of support. Changed days at Glenbuck!

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1926**BIRTHS**

(No Births were advertised in 1926)

MARRIAGES

CHRISTOPHER FLEMING to JEMIMA HAMILTON on 31st December, 1925.

ALEXANDER FULTON to BARBARA ARMSTRONG on 30th December, 1925.

WILLIAM MATHIESON to JEAN WILLIAMS on 1st February.

JAMES DAVIDSON to GRACE BRADFORD on 20th August.

DEATHS

JACKSON.—At Ayr on 6th January, Thomas Jackson (retired Bank Manager, Clydesdale Bank, Muirkirk),

McCALL.—At 10 Midhouse Terrace on 2nd January, William McCall, aged 70 years.

MURDOCH.—At 16 Midhouse Row on 4th January, Annie Anderson, aged 76 years.

STRICKLAND.—At 22 Kames Row on 10th January, Catherine Strickland, aged four months.

McCARTNEY.—At 8 Old Terrace on 24th January, Sarah McAlister, aged 57 years.

KELLY.—At 21 Old Terrace on 27th January, James Kelly, aged 7 months.

LYLE.—At Glasgow on 2nd February, Ex-Sgt. James Lyle, aged 66 years.

GIBSON.—At Furnace Road on 8th February, James Gibson, aged 68 years.

HENDERSON.—In Australia on 10th February, Kenneth Henderson.

McMILLAN.—At 5 Kames Row on 16th February, Sarah McMillan, aged 79 years.

BEGG.—At Bankend Cottage, Smallburn, on 26th March, Matthew Begg, aged 80 years.

ANDERSON.—At Ayr on 28th March, John Anderson, carter, aged 60 years.

BROOM.—At Glasgow on 12th April, Bessie McKie.

WEIR.—At Renfrew on 28th April, Agnes Ferguson, aged 78 years.

LIVINGSTONE.—At Inches as the result of a motoring accident, Donald Livingstone, aged 23 years.

McCARTNEY.—At Kemmel Place, Glasgow Road, on 3rd May, Janet Wilson, aged 75 years.

GIBNEY.—At Kilmarnock on 11th May, Bernard Gibney, aged 24 years.

LINDSAY.—Suddenly on 10th May, William Lindsay, late lorryman, aged 75 years.

BLACKWOOD.—At Post Office on 13th June, John Blackwood, music teacher.

WILSON.—At Main Street on 18th July, Matthew Wilson, aged 3 years.

BOLAND.—At Linkieburn Square on 31st July, Michael Boland, aged 70 years.

WATSON.—At Kilmarnock on 9th August, Thomas Watson (of Glasgow Road), aged 55 years. LONGWILL.—In U.S.A. on 10th August, Margaret Hendry.

GRAHAM.—At Mid Wellwood on 11th September, Alexander Graham, aged 1 year.

CONNACHER.—At Kilwinning on 21st September, Catherine Parsons.

ROBB.—At Smallburn on 23rd September, James McMillan, aged 43 years.

HALLIDAY.—At the Lodge, Glenbuck, on 30th September, Isabella Forsyth, aged 90 years.

HIGGINS.—At 53 Springhill Terrace on 12th November, Andrew Higgins, aged 79 years.

IRVINE.—At Railway Buildings on 11th December, Thomas Irvine, aged 54 years.

ARMSTRONG.—In Persia, on 12th December, Nurse Wilson (widow of John L. Armstrong, Muirkirk).

**A UNIQUE EVENT—EVEN FOR MUIRKIRK**

Marriages are quite common, silver weddings are fairly common, golden weddings are not unknown in Muirkirk, but to have the privilege of celebrating a golden wedding and a silver wedding in one and the same family must be a very rare one indeed, and this was the proud privilege of the Hamilton family recently. Mr & Mrs Hugh Hamilton celebrating their golden wedding, and their daughter and her husband—Mr and Mrs Angus Adair celebrating their silver wedding.

CHAPTER TWENTY

(1927)

The following is the text of a lecture given under the auspices of the Muirkirk Burns Literary Society, in the Dundas Hall, on 18th January, 1927, by Mr Dugald Baird, Kaimshill:—

HISTORY OF MUIRKIRK IRON COMPANY, 1787—1863

While pursuing some old letters and reports left behind them by the Muirkirk Iron Company, it occurred to me that at least a gap of 76 years could be filled up if a short history of the old Muirkirk Iron Company was given, as taken from the letters and reports referred to, which would have a further gap of 64 years to bring it up to date. This further gap is not being dealt with at the present time, but whoever takes it up will have plenty of data to go by, and besides quite a number of the older members of the community have been in Muirkirk during the greater part of this period, and so have plenty of material to go on with at first hand.

With the exception of haematite ore mining on Whitehaugh and iron ore forging at Terreoch, 1705—1730 or 1732, there appears to be no record of coal or iron mining before 1787, the advent of the Muirkirk Iron Company, but it is likely that at least coal was mined both north and south of the Water Ayr before this date. We, however, begin from 1787, and to enable us to visualize the date more readily, it might be mentioned that at that time George the Third was on the throne, the poet Burns was 28 years of age and no doubt passed through our village on his way to and from Edinburgh, and, as Lapraik was at that time living at Dalfram, most likely Burns would look in to see him. According to the dates on her headstone in the Parish Churchyard, Tibbie Pagan would be 34 years of age thereafter, being 80 years old when she died.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT BOOKS KEPT BY THE MANAGERS AT MUIRKIRK, BEGINNING MARCH, 1787

On that date Messrs Robertson, Gillies & Edington (in these days the old Company was composed of Glasgow business men) journeyed from Glasgow to Muirkirk via Sorn. At Sorn they found some ironstone and coal, but neither of them good quality. Two miles east of Sorn they examined the bed of a burn which flows into the River Ayr, and took samples of ironstone for analysis. They also visited the Whitehaugh and saw the iron ore veins which had been previously worked by Lord Cathcart, but in 1787 belonging to Mr McAdam, Craigenkullen.

Afterwards they came to Muirkirk and measured the properties adjoining the Kaims Estate (then leased to Captain Cochrane), Ashyburn, Crossflat, Auldhouseburn, Bankend, and Combshill (probably Kaimshill).

They also examined on Tardoes (spelt Tardoors) and found ironstone in the burn east of the farm.

On Tardoes they found veins of iron ore.

Mr Gillies travelled the Waters of Ayr from Crossflat, Waulkmill to Kaimshill, and found 75 ft. 8 in. of fall, but the figures were thought to be too much, as the day he levelled it was one of continuous wind and rain, and there might have been a mistake made. It was proposed to erect a dam at the low end 30 feet high, so as to get the water power to blow one Blast Furnace. This plan was not, however, carried out.

Mr Grieve, the resident Manager, was to look into the whole question at Muirkirk. He was also to visit Kilmarnock and Cleland to see if the coal and ironstone there was good, as “nothing can induce us to go into such a desert and inland place as Muirkirk, but the absolute certainty of having the coal, ironstone, and limestone very cheap. If Mr Grieve can therefore find the materials nearby as moderately at Kilmarnock or Cleland, we cannot for a moment hesitate to abandon Muirkirk.” In no instance is Mr Grieve to pay a fixed rent, as we wish to give them up whenever they are not workable to profit.

However, they agreed to continue at Muirkirk, and in August, 1787, gave Mr Grieve directions to build a Furnace and an engine, and to do all in his power to have them built and covered in before winter to save reflections on himself and friends. He also got instructions to build what is now called the Red Row, the roof and windows to come from Leith, and the tiles from Glasgow. But if the expense of carting tiles from Glasgow was too great, it was to be slated if this did not cost more than 20/- per rood, slates being preferred owing to the situation being so exposed. Mr Grieve was also to set miners to work to prove the ironstone and start the great level (running south from the Water of Ayr near the Works low gate, and this still exists; also to continue the ore mine as formerly (at the Black Hill, which is still open). In October, 1787, Mr Gillies was to make the plates for a boiler of the very best iron, and Mr Grieve was not to put into it any plates that were in any way cracked or unsound, lest it should at any period stop the Furnace.

Mr Strang has behaved so shabbily in the transactions about Tardoes Farm that Mr Grieve is to be cautious of having any further connection with him.

Now that we have sufficient ironstone for one Furnace, “we have no good reason to be afraid of Commodore Stewart or Lord Dundonald's schemes. We should not purchase any land at Muirkirk, but should erect cheap buildings, and whenever the coal and ironstone ceases to be got cheap, we should abandon them and take our machinery elsewhere.”

The object of Mr Grieve is to get the Furnace and Cast House finished as soon as possible and blow in the Furnace early in summer. Mr Gillies to engage a vessel to bring the cylinder from Chester, it to have hatches wide enough to take in a cylinder seven and a half feet wide. (“I believe that same cylinder is lying down at the Holm yet,” said the lecturer). At a meeting held at Muirkirk, 11th March, 1788, Captain Cochrane (afterwards Lord Dundonald) offered char (coke) from the tar kilns at 'Combs' at 1/8 at the kiln, or 2/- per ton at the Furnaces, and it was agreed to make a trial of it.

A contractor, or undertaker, as they were at that time called, was to be got to deliver limestone at 1/8 per ton, broken to the size of hens' eggs. Robert Neil offered for this.

John Paterson, the mason, was to build the fire engine and the air vessel to the west of the cast house.

Resolved to continue the level to the vein of iron ore in the eastern hill of Tardoes.

The foundation of the second Furnace was not to be laid down at present, for if water is to be used to blow the Furnace, then No. 2 Furnace will be built below No. 1, so that the same water can be used twice. The coke yard to be near enough to the Furnaces so that the grade up to it be 1 in 16.

As few buildings to be erected as possible—"many manufacturers destroy themselves in building houses, Carron is a melancholy example of this. As to Commodore Stewart (Laird of Wellwood), we have no hold over such a Jew but his interest."

The Laird of Kaims told us that Nether Wellwood was better worth £6,000 than the other was worth £4,000. Thomas Edington, one of the partners, wrote to Mr Grieve—"your man as I am told is a drunken dog. You will therefore be careful that he does his work properly and not get into our debt."

If Mr Strang does not get carts to carry the timber for the beam in a few days, I will write you to get the logs from Ayr. In April, 1788, it was agreed that the road to Sanquhar should be on the West side of the Works, and not through them as it was once proposed.

In September, 1788, working was commenced in Auldhouseburn, and George Espie and three others worked there at an open cast and produced 12-14 tons of coal per week at 2/- per ton—7/- per week each.

Iron ore at Tardoes. 100 tons in stock. The streak of the veins in both east and west hills runs north and south. That in the western hill dips to the west; that in the eastern hill dips to the east. That in the east hill is unfavourably; on the west hill a pit was being sunk. At one fathom down the vein was one foot wide, at five fathoms it was two feet. Limestone easily to be had and in abundance.

2nd September, 1788.—Mr Wm. Caddell joins the Company as Mr Edington's representative, and was to get a receiver cover cast at Carron if it could not be got at Clyde Iron Works, from the pattern being made by the joiner at Muirkirk.

The next meeting was held in Glasgow on 9th October, 1788. Mr Gillies reported that he had been to Muirkirk and there met Loudon McAdam, who offered coke at 2/3 ton.

All the limestone got at Crossflat to be carted home before winter sets in.

Mr Grieve wishes to let to Thomas Richmond d of Linburn that portion of the Tardoes Farm north of Greenock Water for £5 per year (There was now no land belonging to Tardoes north of the Greenock Water so far as Mr Baird knew).

Mr Grieve was also to set about and make a plan for a home for himself and send it to Glasgow for approval. The stones to be got locally. He to let it to a mason. A carpenter

from Ayr or Glasgow to contract for doors, windows, and flooring, and to get it ready for occupation early in spring.

15th November, 1788, at Muirkirk.—Mr Grieve to see Commodore Stewart and get the Lade from the Garpel marked off.

Thomas White, Combshill, to get £10 per year for going through the mine daily.

Carting to be done at 6d per ton per mile.

Ironstone was now to be got from Lighshaw.

Iron ore was to be stopped unless it could be raised and laid on the surface for 5/- per ton.

Mrs Grieve was to get £20 per year to entertain friends of the Company until the Inn (Irondale) projected by Commodore Stewart be erected for public accommodation.

Lade to go on at 3d per lineal yard (It now takes 3d per yard to clean it). A stables for six horses to be built.

8th April, 1789.—The road to Strathaven was commenced.

At meetings held at Muirkirk 29th and 30th April, and 2nd and 3rd May, 1789, it was resolved to sink the High Weighs Pit to the level of the Great Mine.

Resolved to push on the level in Tardoes Burn for both coal and ironstone.

Me Edington to send 5 or 6 miners from Clyde. Resolved to write Mr Boswell that their workings at Garsewater (old form of spelling and pronouncing "grass") did not warrant the erection of Furnaces there.

22nd October, 1789, held at Muirkirk.—At this time the workmen sat rent free, but this was to be altered as soon as possible. As it was found that coal in stock did not keep so well as coke does, it was resolved to stock coke and cover it with turfs.

John Salmond was appointed oversman at 10/- per week, and £5 per year if he gave satisfaction.

Thomas Darby to be stocktaker at 8/- per week, and £5 extra per year if he gave satisfaction.

Resolved that all the carpenters shall be discharged unless those who would work for 9/- per week.

Resolved that after a trial is made of Watson's baskets from Netherfoot, if not found to answer, it will be proper to bargain with makers about Cumnock or Affleck to furnish baskets by the piece. (Mr Baird ventured the opinion that the Furnaces were filled by baskets then).

At Muirkirk, 27th August, 1790, it was resolved to sink the Kames Engine or Glenhead Pit 20 fathoms deep, and drive up the old level made by the Tar Company to this pit, to save pumping water to the surface. Mr Loudon McAdam was present, and it was resolved that all concerned would require to go hand in hand with all parties, before they begun such an expensive operation, to prevent reflections in all time coming.

At Muirkirk, 27th September, 1790, it was agreed to build an addition to Kaimshill House according to plan. The foundation was "stabbed off." Wm. Gardiner was to dig it out, and John Paterson was to build it. Messrs Gillies and Gordon

reported that it was necessary to get a supply of good water for Kaimshill House and the people at the Works. It was agreed that the spring called Cairntable Cauldron, being the nearest, should be laid down. 2-in. earthen pipes were to be got from Peter Moir, potter at Drongan. That it be led in these pipes to the reservoir near the Furnace Bank, and thereafter in 1-in. lead pipes with $\frac{3}{4}$ in. branches to the houses at the Furnace Bank, to the coke bank, John Paterson's house, and to the carter's house in the Barn Yard.

FORGE

At this same meeting it was agreed to start a Forge either by steam or water. Two dams of 2 acres each were to be made, and a 42 in. fire engine got for working the drawing hammer or for rolling.

CANAL

It was resolved to make a canal 8 feet wide at bottom, 16 or 17 feet wide at top, and 4 feet deep, and that proper application was to be made to Mr McAdam of Craigenmullen for liberty to bring the water through his lands at Ashyburn.

Mr Salmond's work as oversman had been good, and he was to get 7 guineas instead of £5 as a yearly bonus, and his weekly wage was to be raised from 10/- 12/-, with a £5 yearly bonus as before if he pleased.

At Muirkirk, 15th March, 1791, it was agreed to build twelve workmen's house near those built by the British tar Company at a price not exceeding eleven guineas each, being the same rate as those recently built at Catcheyburn.

A water wheel 24 feet in diameter was to be erected near the Furnace Bank, and the water from the Garpel led to it.

OFFICE

On 29th March, 1791, it was agreed to build a Counting House 45 ft. by 20 ft., according to plan produced (This was the Office, of course).

The building of the twelve houses mentioned above was let to Robert Willocks at £12 5s each, they to have thatched roofs.

Received an account from Crossflat for damages amounting to £1 4s 9d. It was to be paid, but the Company consider their bargain with him a very bad one.

Mr Guiland appears to have been Furnace Manager at this time, and he was to see no drink was brought into the Casting or Bridge House on any account.

He was to examine the baskets as received from the makers, and see that they were right in every respect before they were paid for. Also to take care that the wheelers and fillers did not embezzle them.

22nd October, 1791.—At Glenbuck, a level was being driven to a seam of coal formerly worked by Mr Whyte, and after this seam and the 6-foot seam be proved the Company will meet and determine what further steps they are to take in regard to erecting Furnaces there before Mr Wright goes to England.

8th December, 1791.—The price of coal was fixed at—Parrot Coal 9d per load, Chew Coal 4d per load, and to be

raised on 1st January following to 1/- and 6d respectively.

18th January, 1792, at Glasgow.—Mr Udney, land surveyor having come west at the desire of the Company to meet them, and Mr Officer to point out the proper way of subdividing and enclosing Tardoes Farm.

It is agreed to adopt Mr Udney's plan of enclosing and planting the Tore Hill the ensuing season. The fence to be sunk and the stones to be taken from the top of the hill to assist as far as they will go. The trees to be planted at the distance of 4 feet from each other in the following proportions— $\frac{1}{3}$ common firs, $\frac{1}{3}$ larches, $\frac{1}{12}$ each of ash, birch, oak, and planes, a few silver firs, American white, and black spruce, holys, lyburnums, and mountain ash to be added. The bank from the bridge westward to be planted the ensuing season with oaks, larches, beech, mountain ash, lyburnums, birch, a few silver and balm of giliad firs, planes, and some horse chestnuts. The large belt of planting round the south park to be properly filled up. The trees, Mr Officer will get from Ayr. The remainder of the belt on side of the great road to be completed with same assortment as the Tore Hill. The trees for which Mr Udney will furnish and send to Muirkirk whenever the weather will permit.

On 27th November, 1793, the Muirkirk Iron Company had to get the loan of £820 from the Royal Bank to enable them to carry on.

23rd June, 1796.—The Furnaces built, but can only blow two at a time.

On 30th November, 1796, £2000 was placed to the credit of the Company as an operating account, and James Gordon, Manager of the Company was authorised to sign a Bond for this amount.

On 23rd November, 1799, Messrs Grieve & Dixon (of Dixon's Blazes probably) reported on the coal raised from Admiral Stewart's ground.

On 9th May, 1800, Wm Dixon reported on all Pits going at that date. The tar kilns were still going. It is reported in this connection that the Tar Kilns Dyke has been cut in two or three places, and Mr John Ferguson should be instructed to put dams into them to prevent the water flowing to the bank pit when the Glenhead pumping pit was stopped. The Linkyburn Pit would at this date only last half a year longer before it came to the dyke to the west, which is a downthrown dyke to the west of 24 fathoms. This time Mr Dixon reported that there was pit room for 104 colliers.

The Report Book finished at this date, 9th May, 1800, 13 years from the Time the Company started, but a Letter Book starting in May, 1809, contains many interesting letters. From May, 1809, till June, 1810 they are mostly signed by Hugh Baird, who appears to have been managing partner at that time.

NOTE

An extract from Topographical, Statistical, and Historical Gazetteer of Scotland showed that the Muirkirk Ironworks were erected on or about 1787, and that in the year of the publication (1841), there were four blast furnaces in operation at Muirkirk

LOUDON McADAM

As is well known, John Loudon McAdam, inventor of that system of roadmaking which bears his name, was a partner with Lord Dundonald at the Tar Kilns near Springhill.

In 1817 the Iron Company, anxious to get rid of their works, wrote to Loudon McAdam after he had left Muirkirk and gone to Bristol to look after the roads in that district, to see if they could effect a sale through him.

He replied advising the Company to hold on to their Muirkirk works and coal fields, which were very good subjects, and he was sure that in a short time things would take a turn for the better. This letter was dated 26th February, 1817, when bad trade followed after Waterloo in 1815.

The Iron Company appears to have taken his advice and carried on, as shortly after this they borrowed money and sank the Wellwood Pit.

I will finish by reading to you the letter referred to, which I am sure you will consider well worth preserving, as it shows that Mr McAdam was a man of culture and ability. He declined a knighthood in 1827, but accepted £10,000 from the Government for many services rendered. He died in 1836, at the age of 80.

LOCAL STATISTICS (1926)

Births—87. The lowest number since registration began. The previous lowest was 90, in 1922. The highest record was 267, in 1879.

Marriages—28. Normal year.

Deaths—31. Lowest recorded since records began. The previous lowest was 35, in 1923. The highest number registered was 156, in 1877.

THE ROYAL GEORGE

From the "Bulletin" of 7th February—"A small farm steading near Muirkirk bears the peculiar name of Royal George, a cognomen more suggestive of a public house than a farm. It takes its name, however, from a near-by coal pit, which more than a century ago was sunk to a depth of 100 fathoms only to be drowned by an inflow of water too great to be coped with by any pumps at that time available. As this happened shortly after the loss of the 'Royal George' in Portsmouth Harbour, with brave Kempenfelt on board, the abandoned shaft was called after the ill-fated vessel, and from it the name was transferred to the farm built there in later years." While the foregoing appears to be no news to a few in the Parish, it will be information to the large majority. The pit shaft, which is only a few yards from the house, was within living memory a gaping void, but is now levelled over, though owing to the experience of a cow there some years ago, its safety is not trusted. According to school history books the "Royal George" sank in Portsmouth Harbour in the year 1782.

WIT AND HUMOUR

A Jew and a Scot were playing a match at golf for a small money wager. They were both round in 65. The Jew then took a paralytic stroke, and the Scot made him count it.

SEEN AND HEARD

Miss Murray of Crossflatt and Carskeoch has purchased the Farms of Priesthill, Dipple, Blackside, and Linburn; and Mr Woodburn of Hurlford the farm of Netherwood, from Mrs Broun Lindsay.

In March the Pavilion re-opened under new management—Mr Harry Caldwell.

Mr Hugh Bell (under-manager at Kames) was appointed Manager at Grasshill Colliery in succession to Mr Trewsdale.

Muirkirk native, Mr John Maxwell appointed Chief Constable of the City of Manchester.

A case of anthrax was reported at Greenside Farm.

The forge chimney stack at the Ironworks was felled to the ground on Thursday last (31st March).

The public house licence for the Central Bar held by Mr James Dunbar has been transferred to his son, John.

The work of laying an electric cable from Kames Pit to Cronberry Moor was started in May.

Police Sergreant Alex. Thain replaced Sgt. Forbes at Muirkirk Police Station.

Short time working was being experienced in the local pits.

A set of swings were erected at Carruthers Park in June, and proved very popular.

George Bain's Store at Glenbuck was seriously damaged by fire.

Contracts were granted for the remodelling and extension to Furnace Road School.

Mr James Kirkwood appointed Headmaster at Glenbuck in place of Mr Rodger (now retired).

Mr Archibald Hodge appointed caretaker of Temperance Hall in place of Mr John Ferguson.

Railway Cottage built at Smallburn. Council houses being erected at Wellwood Avenue. Work was commenced on the new office of the Co-operative at the foot of Glasgow Road. Also work on the extension to the Furnace road school was commenced.

A start has been made to remove the mountain—otherwise the Company's Knowe. Hill and dale is evidently not an ideal setting for a children's playground.

Mr Robert Stevenson, Kinross, appointed Manager at Muirkirk Gas Works.

FOOTBALL (Season 1926-27)

Very little happened on the football scene locally, with perhaps the non-appearance of Glenbuck Cherrypickers being the main talking point, although rumours had it that the Cherries would be re-appearing next season.

The local Athletic had a rather dismal season, and their only chance of silverware came in the final of the Cumnock Cup, which had been held over from the previous season. They lost 3—0 to Cumnock. The Athletic team was:—Taylor; Hamilton, Thomas; Tait, Williamson, Smith; Miller, Aaron, Reid, Findlay, Beck.

HYDRANT TEST AND DISPLAY

Now that the new water pipes have been laid, the Parish Council are endeavouring to fix the nucleus of a fire brigade for Muirkirk, and several lines of hose pipes together with other requisite apparatus have now been obtained. The engineer responsible for the laying of the pipes arranged for the purchase of these requisites, and he paid a visit to Muirkirk in May, when, along with several members of the Parish Council, he gave a demonstration of the working of the apparatus. The only unsatisfactory feature was that the water pressure was poor at Furnace Road and Smallburn, and it will be a question for the Parish Council to decide whether or not a larger pipe is to be laid to these districts.

FIRE

Shortly after six o'clock on Friday evening (29th April) smoke was observed coming from a wooden shed situated behind Kirkgreen Branch of the Co-operative Society, and used by them for the storage of general goods. The alarm was at once raised and when the door of the shed was opened it was found that the inside was in flames. The walls of the erection were composed of wooden sleepers, with a slate roof, and in a few minutes the whole structure was a flaming mass. Fire extinguishers were used to no avail, and, a goodly supply of water was obtained from the hydrant, in about an hour nothing but parts of the sleepers of the structure sides were left. The damage, which is estimated about £150, is covered by insurance. Considerably anxiety was experienced in connection with the neighbouring property, and the helpers had a busy time confining the fire to the seat of its origin. By seven o'clock the conflagration was spent, and it is fortunate indeed that the fire took place when there were helpers practically on the spot. Both the Store hose and the town's new hose were out, but the latter was not long enough to reach the scene. So ended the first lesson!

THE TWELFTH

The grouse shooting season opened on Friday last, and the district moors came in for their share of attention. Birds proved to be plentiful and fine bags were secured. The Marquis of Bute and party of eight guns, including Lord Crichton Stuart, Lord Dumfries, and the Earl of Stair, shooting over Wellwood Moors on Friday, killed 468½ brace of grouse, as well as sundries—a very creditable bag indeed. On Saturday, over the Kyle, the same party secured 217 brace, and on Monday (over Dalblair) they had 268½ brace, while between 200 and 300 brace were secured over Wellwood on Tuesday.

THE SMIDDY

The old smiddy building at the foot of Glasgow Road, as in all villages the local House of Parliament at one time, and which has been in disuse for a number of years, is now a thing of the past. In the space of a day or so it has been reduced to a hapless pile, to make way for a more modern edifice for the Co-operative Society. It should certainly improve the look of the corner. It would be interesting to speculate how many jackets the end of the smiddy has worn through, and also where, oh where, habitues will find a shelter from the stormy blasts from the west.

GOLF CLUB OFFICIALS, 1927

Hon. President Mr Dugald Baird
 President Dr Hutchison
 Vice-President Mr F. J. Gordon, M.A.
 Secretary Mr James Pringle, Irondale
 Treasurer Mr Tom Graham

THE FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHTS?

The recent installation of an electric lamp at the Water of Ayr Bridge in Furnace Road is proving a great boon to pedestrians to and from the Southside. Another lamp is being installed at the Ironworks Store. The installation is greatly appreciated, and is a much needed improvement.

COMMERCIAL CHANGES

Mr and Mrs William C. Weir succeeded Mrs Smith at the Masons Arms Hotel.

John Armstrong started a Painting and Decorating business at Furnace Road.

James M. Law intimated he was taking over the Butchers Shop in Main Street, lately occupied by Mr William Mochrie.

Mr William Hamilton opened the shop in Main Street lately occupied by Miss Mitchell (near Old Post Office) as a General Drapery Establishment.

MUIRKIRK BOWLING CLUB

On 4th May at the formal opening for the season of Muirkirk Bowling Club, a President's Board was presented to the Club by Mr John Young, J.P., to mark the Jubilee of the Club which was being celebrated that same day. The names inscribed on the Board were:—

1874—John Angus, J.P.	1901—Thomas Jackson, J.P.
1875—John Angus, J.P.	1902—William Murdoch
1876—John Angus, J.P.	1903—Andrew Pringle
1877—Dr Robert Stevenson	1904—Thomas W. Buchanan
1878—Alexander Stewart, J.P.	1905—James Hamilton
1879—Alex. Donald, F.E.I.S.	1906—John Colthart
1880—Hugh Smith	1907—Dr Thomas Marshall
1881—Hugh Millar	1908—David B. Greenwood
1882—John Angus, J.P.	1909—John D. Dunbar
1883—Arthur Money	1910—Peter Fettes
1884—George Crawford	1911—Thomas Hazle
1885—Dr James Ritchie	1912—Hugh Bell
1886—John McDonald	1913—John Gray
1887—Thomas McC. McMinn	1914—Robert Young
1888—Dr David Carruthers	1915—William Patrick
1889—William McCulloch	1916—Thomas Buchanan
1890—Dr Andrew B. Fulton	1917—William Logie
1891—Andrew Richmond	1918—Robert Barrie
1892—William C. Mackie	1919—William Gilfillan
1893—John Maider	1920—James G. Torbett
1894—Charles P. Bell	1921—John Ramsay
1895—John Gilchrist	1922—Dr David Barbour
1896—Charles Howatson, J.P.	1923—Dr John Cameron
1897—William Hogg	1924—George W. Millar
1898—William Anderson	1925—Peter Steel
1899—Rich. Cunningham	1926—Dr T. P. Hutchison
1900—Rev. Rbt. Montgomery	1927—John Young, J.P.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1927**BIRTHS**

HAZLE.—At High Street, Glenbuck on 30th October to Mr and Mrs Alex. Hazle; a son.

MARRIAGES

WILLIAM LUCAS to JESSIE BRADFORD on 24th December, 1926.

ROBERT STEVEN to JEAN MATHIESON on 27th January.

ARCHIE MITCHELL to MARGARET MUIR on 4th February.

WILLIAM FULTON to AGNES RENNIE on 27th April.

RICHARD SYMINGTON to MARGARET STEELE on 3rd June.

ERIC KNOTT to MARY GILCHRIST on 27th July.

JAMES YOUNG to IRENE SPENCER on 8th November.

DEATHS

McKINNON.—At Albert Place on 2nd February, Thomas McKinnon, aged 1 year and 4 months.

KIRK.—At Glasgow on 14th February, Margaret Cumming.

WYLLIE.—At Torhill on 18th February, Harry Wyllie, aged 4 months.

WILSON.—At Woodlands, Wellwood Street, on 18th February, Marion Wallace, aged 49 years.

McCLYMONT.—At Kirkburnhead on 4th March, John McClymont, aged 82 years.

BONE.—At 4 White's Row, Glenbuck, on 7th March, David Bone, aged 71 years.

BECK.—At 37 Kames Row on 21st March, David Beck, aged 9½ months.

DEMPSTER.—At 48 New Terrace on 21st March, Margaret Anderson, aged 31 years.

MCDONALD.—At 25 Springhill Terrace on 21st March, James McDonald, aged 3 months.

PARK.—At Main Street on 26th March, Annie Blaikie, aged 79 years.

TAYLOR.—At 31 New Terrace on 24th March, Thomas Taylor, aged 1 year and 9 months.

HARVEY.—At Mid Wellwood on 28th March, Jeanie Morton, aged 88 years.

CAMPBELL.—At 12 Old Terrace on 12th April, Agnes Samson, aged 24 years.

RODIE.—At 41 New Terrace on 2nd April, Elizabeth Rodie, aged 79 years.

SANDERSON.—At Glasgow on 9th April, Robert Sanderson, aged 54 years.

SHIELDS.—At Glengall on 5th May, Thomas Shields (of Garronhill).

JOHNSTON.—At Station Cottages, Glenbuck on 30th May, Agnes Johnston, aged 49 years.

JOHNSTON.—At Station Cottages, Glenbuck, on 5th June, Jane McLeod, aged 76 years.

MARTIN.—At Dronagan on 29th June, Marion Miller.

ROBB.—At Yorkhill on 24th June, Robert Robb, aged 10 months.

ROGERSON.—In Australia on 13th August, Elizabeth Thomson (late of Midhouse).

LOGIE.—At Torhill on 21st August, Marjory Williamson, aged 86 years.

BRADFORD.—At Glasgow on 29th September, David Bradford, aged 41 years.

BAIN.—At Slack Row, Glenbuck, on 25th September, Jane Bone, aged 68 years.

WILSON.—At Glasgow on 28th November, Thomas Wilson, aged 64 years (of Glasgow Road).

DUNCAN.—At Glasgow on 8th December, William Duncan, aged 53 years (of Glasgow Road).

KERR.—At Holmhead, Muirkirk, on 18th December, John Kerr, J.P., aged 70 years.

ANDERSON.—At Shotts on 24th December, John Anderson, aged 69 years.

HAZEL.—At Cumnock on 23rd December, John Hazel, aged 6½ years

QUOTING

The game of quoits was very popular locally, and in Muirkirk itself there were at least three rinks—Masons Arms, Bankhead, and Southside. From the issue of 2nd June, we quote:—

Select teams from Bankhead and Kames Row met on the Southside on Thursday evening of last week in the first of two home-and-home matches at fifteen yards. Good pitching was witnessed, and there was a large spectorate. Interest was whetted in view of the fact that a local League is about to be started, and a critic informs us that both teams will have to improve if they wish to have a say in the championship. Kames Row won by 90 shots to 73, and the Bankhead stalwarts are eagerly awaiting their revenge. The following are the names of the players with their scores:—

KAMES ROW		BANKHEAD	
Barney Gibney		Alex. Brown	
John Flannagan	25	David Easton	20
John Findlay		Hugh Wilson	
Edward Thomas	25	Robert Murray	18
William Morran		David Murray	
Frank McDonald	25	William Gilchrist	10
Hugh Campbell		Richard Menzies	
Hugh Boland	15	Robert Easton	25
	—		—
	90		73

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

(1928)

NOTES ON
EXCAVATIONS OF PREHISTORIC
AND LATER SITES AT MUIRKIRK,
1913—1927

By ARCHIBALD FAIRBAIRN, F.S.A.Scot

Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

The district of Muirkirk, situated within the uplands of the central division of Ayrshire and on the upper reaches of the River Ayr, may, with the exception of the lower ground, be described as chiefly moorland. It is surrounded on the north, south, and east by hills, rising in the highest point to an elevation of 1944 feet, and from those hills the smallest beginnings of the Ayr have their source. On the west the prospect is wide open, across the whole width of the county, following the river, to the sea. The hills and moorland slope gently downwards, meeting cultivation along the lower reaches of the Greenock Water and the Garpel Water, tributaries of the River Ayr. The hill-sides and mosses, now treeless and heather-clad, show, in many peat exposures, evidence in root and branch of the primeval forest, once the haunt of wild ox, wolf, and red deer, as testified by finds of bone and horn.

In a district such as this, archaeology is the more fascinating because of the change of natural features which has taken place since prehistoric times. The site of the Bronze Age hut-circle - a sheltered opening, we may suppose, in the forest - is now exposed to the blast on a tree-less hill-slope, while the burial cairn on the rising ground no longer overlooks the primeval growth of birch, pine, oak, and alder trees which filled the hollows below.

Among the casual finds of archaeological relics in the district mention may be made of the following: a bronze spear-head (fig. 1), found in a drain on Whitehaugh Moss; a bronze flanged axe (fig. 2), turned up by the plough at West Glenbuck; and half of a stone axe - cutting end - found near Marchhouse; the lower jaw of a wolf on Crossflatt; antlers of a red deer in a drain on the farm of Kames; and the bones and horn-cores of the British wild ox, found in the refuse heap of an ancient British settlement in the district.

Previous to 1913 very little seems to have been attempted in the district by way of archaeological research. In that year, however, the late Col. J. G. A. Baird, F.S.A.Scot., made a beginning, and many ancient constructions were explored on his Muirkirk estate. After his death the research was continued by his daughter, Mrs Broun Lindsay, F.S.A.Scot., the author having taken part in all the work carried out.

PREHISTORIC SITES

In the autumn of 1913 the excavation of two hut-circles was accomplished, and both are described in the *Proceedings*, vol. xlviii., p. 373. It will be recalled that No. 1 hut-circle, marked No. 1 on the accompanying map (fig. 3), is situated on a heather-clad hill-slope, at an elevation of 900 feet above sea-level. The discovery of fragments of an ornamental beaker-like vessel (fig. 4) of the Bronze Age within the interior was sufficiently important to confirm the view that certain of the hut-circles dated to the Bronze Age in Scotland. The interior of this structure was again carefully explored in 1924, but, with the exception of minor fragments of the same vessel, no other relics were discovered.

It will also be recalled that No. 2 hut-circle (No. 2) is at the

lower elevation of 700 feet, on the margin of the same hill-slope. The relics found among the debris under the turf consisted of coarse, glazed pottery, two rough pieces of flint, and some charcoal. In the centre of the interior a circular pit, 4 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep, was discovered. It had been filled in with cairn-sized stones. At the bottom the complete fragments of a decorated beaker-like vessel of the Bronze Age were discovered (fig. 5) along with many fragments of carbonised oak. The glazed pottery, as will be seen, belonged to a late occupation of the site.

It was decided in 1924 to re-excavate, at a lower level, the interior of this hut-circle, and to this end the upper level - chiefly rough cobble-stones over which the mediaeval potshreds were found - was taken up and the debris cleared out. It was then discovered that the prehistoric floor lay beneath, consisting of clay and gravel firmly compacted and strewn with charcoal. This floor was taken up and carefully passed through the riddle, when fragments of five different vessels, ornamented and plain (fig. 6), apparently of the early Bronze Age, were recovered. Moreover, 12 feet west from the centre and 6 feet inwards from the wall, a hearth of flat stones, without a kerb, was discovered, over which still lay a thick layer of black and red charred material. At 11 feet south-east from the centre and 3 feet from the wall a cooking-hole was discovered full to the brim of very fine dark-coloured charcoal of wood, plentifully intermixed with small fragments of burnt bone. The cooking-hole measured 22 inches wide and 12 inches deep, and was simply a hole in the ground.

The re-excavation of this hut-circle has brought to light a well-appointed Bronze Age dwelling with examples of the domestic pottery then in use, and it may assist in solving the enigma of the central pit and beaker-like vessel found in 1913.

The large area to be roofed over - a diameter of from 34 to 38 feet - would necessitate a central roof-tree of stout proportions, and from the fragments of oak found in the bottom of the pit it is reasonable to assume that the roof-tree was of oak. The mass of cairn-sized stones which filled the pit would be sufficiently weighty to hold a pole in position. The urn found at the bottom may have been placed there in keeping with some ceremonial. The writer, who discovered and removed the fragments, found them close together, suggesting that the vessel had been placed there in a whole state.

While it is intended to notice the prehistoric excavations first, it may be of interest to mention here a discovery of a mediaeval nature made while re-excavating this hut-circle.

In testing the ground for a probable refuse heap, traces of charcoal were encountered at a depth of 2 feet and at a distance of 15 feet north-west of the hut-circle wall. This was followed up, and it led to the entrance of a squarely-built structure, with an opening 2 feet in height and 2 feet 4 inches wide. A massive lintel-stone, 4 feet in length, bridged the entrance, which was at a depth of 4 feet below the present ground surface. By inserting a rod into the opening it was found to extend 10 feet forward, and at this distance a pit was dug, which finally disclosed a stone-lined kiln (fig. 7) similar in construction to that described in the *Proceedings*, vol. xlviii., p. 378. The kiln and the flue are paved with superior flag-stones. There is a projecting stone step half-way down the kiln, for the convenience evidently of an attendant getting in and out. The outer end of the flue was found to contain a mass of red, burnt ashes, the remains of the last fire when the structure was in use. What was that use? It is not suggested that this is drying kiln, for such it undoubtedly was, had been associated with the life of the adjoining hut-circle. It is more likely to have been built out of the remains of that structure, the site chosen because of the building material at hand.

A late mediaeval homestead has been discovered and ex

cavated only a short distance to the south-east, and the furrows of very early ploughing are still visible on the heather-covered land close by. It is possible that the kiln was used for drying grain in the straw. It is probable also that the cobbled hut-circle floor found in 1913, on which the green, glazed, mediaeval potshreds were discovered, was the floor of a barn for the storage of grain in connection with the kiln. On disuse the kiln had been filled in and the whole construction completely covered over.

The next hut-circle (No. 3) is situated a short distance east from No. 2, and is described by the writer in the *Proceedings*, vol. liv. p. 210. Within this hut-circle fragments of two differently ornamented domestic Bronze Age vessels and one large flake of flint were discovered. One of the vessels was decorated by pinching the moist clay between the nails of the thumb and forefinger, and the other by impressing horizontal, vertical, and zigzag lines with a toothed stamp.

It was noted that there was a circular fire-marked area on the clay floor of this hut circle. On the same floor level a well-constructed hearth of flat stones was left intact in 1919. This was taken up in 1924, and underneath was discovered a cooking-hole similar in size to that found in No. 2 hut-circle. It was brimful of very black charcoal, intermixed with a fair sprinkling of burnt bone.

From 50 to 80 yards to the south there are two circular formations of stones slightly below ground-level. In both flint chips have been plentifully found, but, so far as the excavations have gone, neither pottery nor other relics have been discovered.

It is noteworthy, in connection with the above hut-circles, that no small cairns nor tumuli have been discovered in their neighbourhood.

The first cremation burial cairn excavated was that on Weyherhill, 1128 feet above sea level, which was described in the *Proceedings*, vol. li. p. 24.

This round cairn of the Bronze Age (No. 4) lies on the summit of a green knoll and is surrounded on all sides by peat moss. It was formed over an outcrop of dolerite rock, on which the body had previously been burned. The excavation of the cairn yielded a food vessel (fig. 8) and a cinerary urn (fig. 9), and contained a separate cremation deposit without an urn. Fragments of carbonised wood, scattered over the fire-scorched rock beneath the cairn, proved, under expert examination, to be birch and oak, and in keeping with abundant evidence of root and branch exposed in the surrounding peat.

The excavations of the next five cairn sites were described by the writer in *Proceedings*, vol. lvi. p. 126. Only the first cairn (No. 5) was intact, the others being mere ruins. The complete cairn lies low on the southern skirts of Middlefield Law at an elevation of 1050 feet. The structure had been formed on the clay, and peat had, in the course of ages, crept over it to a height of 3 feet 10 inches. Nothing was found within the cairn; but under it a complete circular trench was discovered, containing a cremation burial, along with a great quantity of charcoal of wood in unusually large fragments. Two worked knives, one of flint and the other of chert, were recovered from the deposit. It was seen from the scorched and red burnt earth that the cremation had taken place on the circular platform within, and surrounded by, the trench, over which the cairn had finally been raised.

Regarding the four ruined cairns, one (No. 6) is situated a short distance west of Linburn Farm and to the south of the last cairn. The site occupies the highest point of the rising ground, and is 850 feet above sea-level. Only the circular base survived, in the centre of which, below the debris, there was a well-preserved cist without cover-stones. On being cleared out and minutely examined, a sprinkling of charcoal of oak and

one fragment of thick hand-made pottery referable to the Bronze Age was recovered from the cist.

The next cairn (No. 7) is on an eminence 830 feet above sea-level, on the edge of the moor overlooking the Ayr valley, and near the east bank of the Shiel; burn. At a depth of 2 feet, in forced soil, beneath the cairn there was a thick layer of yellow clay. Immediately below this clay there was a concentrated deposit of charcoal of oak intermixed with dark grey mould containing a sprinkling of bone in fine particles. There was no evidence of a cist and no relics of any kind were recovered.

The remains of the third structure (No. 8) are near the south-east margins of Ayr Moss, and a short way east of the monument to Richard Cameron, the Covenanter, and the resolute men who died with him there in defence of religious freedom. The central area of this construction was explored to a depth of 3 feet. At this depth much charcoal in small fragments was met with, intermixed with very dark soil. One unworked flake of flint was discovered, but no direct evidence of sepulchral rites was forthcoming.

Without this, or any evidence of fire, it is difficult to account for the presence of charcoal - chiefly of oak - in small cairns.

The last ruined cairn (No. 9) occupies very exactly the highest point of a wooded ridge called Rineknowe, 700 feet in height, near Wellwood. The west side of the cairn is slightly concave in form, with well-defined corners. The south-west extremity has still its corner-stone - a large boulder - in position. In excavating the cairn, the interior, consisting of earth and stones, was put over the margin. On the ground level several heavy flat stones set on edge and in a position east and west were discovered, suggesting the ruined remains of a cist. The soil in their vicinity was passed through the riddle, when five fragments of a Bronze Age urn were recovered. The largest fragment, part of the rim, has four transverse lines of decoration.

The next excavation site, that of a partially demolished cairn (No. 10), is only a short distance north-west from the last and slightly to the east of Marchhouse. This was described in the *Proceedings*, vol. lviii. p. 333. A cinerary urn of large size (fig. 10), ornamented, and with broad overhanging rim, was discovered in 2 feet of sand, in the bank of the newly widened roadway. This vessel was inverted over a large deposit of incinerated human remains. On the ground, mouth upwards, and within the urn, was an incense cup (fig. 11), with eighteen perforations round the widest part. It was full of burnt material in the form of fine black ash, similar to that found in the cooking-holes of the hut-circles. Inserted with one end in the ashes of the incense cup, and in a vertical position, was a pointed and polished bone pin (fig. 12), $7 \frac{3}{8}$ inches in length, and, also within the incense cup, a bronze awl (fig. 12), pointed at one end and flattened at the other, and an unworked fragment of green chert. The exhaustive exploration of the site extended to the adjoining field, and disclosed, at a depth of 2 feet, under the ploughing, the northern half of a cairn base, giving a diameter of 47 feet, the urn burial occupying the centre underneath the cairn. The southern half of the base had been demolished by the construction of the original roadway. At 10 feet north-east of the burial, under the heaviest stones of the burial, a shallow pit in the sand contained a large deposit of charcoal wood and fragments of incinerated bone, the residue probably of the funeral pyre.

It is of interest to note that the stone axe referred to as one of the casual finds was discovered many years ago in the opposite bank of the roadway and within a few yards of where the southern margin of the cairn would originally extend to.

The next cairn (No. 11) was excavated in the autumn of 1925, and has not hitherto been described; it is situated on the farm of Netherwood, at the west end of what is locally known as the Blood Moss, at 950 feet elevation and on the margin of the steep slope which runs down to the Polkebuck Burn, 100 yards to the west.

After removing the peat, which enveloped the structure, a round cairn, 28 feet in diameter, was disclosed, the lower stones resting on the clay. A large flagstone, suggesting the cover of a cist, was found displaced near the surface of the peat, and disturbance long ago was suspected - a surmise which proved correct. The cairn was excavated from the centre outwards, and a short cist without a cover was disclosed, formed of flagstones set on edge. The cist lies north-east and south-west and slightly to the west of the centre of the cairn, and measures inside 36 inches in length, 22 inches in width, and is 23 inches deep. One end and one side are formed by single flagstones 27 inches and 32 inches in length respectively. The cist contained dark-coloured soil - chiefly peat. No relics of any kind were discovered.

The summit of Wardlaw, 1630 feet high, commands, as the name suggests, a vast outlook, embracing the whole valley of the Ayr from its source to the sea, ben Lomond to the north, and the hills of Galloway to the south.

The base of a round cairn (No. 12, 30 feet in diameter, occupies exactly the highest point, over which beacons have been lit possibly for centuries. Although the cairn had been much disturbed by visitors to the hill-top, it was decided to explore the base, and more particularly the ground underneath. The excavation was carried out in the usual way, but it was soon realised that nothing perishable by heat could survive. The ground below the cairn was trenched over to no purpose, but under a marginal boulder, outwith the fire-marked area, a massive late-Celtic finger-ring of bronze (fig. 13), 1 15/16-inch and 1 3/16-inch diameter, was discovered. No other relic was discovered throughout the excavation, and the cairn was restored.

At the junction of the Hole Burn with the River Ayr there is a high promontory, locally known as Castlehill (No. 13); the name, however, has no reference to any stone-and-lime building. The approach to the site from the north, along a high and narrow ridge, has the Hole Burn on the right and the Ayr on the left. Immediately in front, on the promontory, there is a steep mound resembling a mote hill and measuring 68 feet from base to summit, which is artificially flat, circular, and 46 feet in diameter. Immediately in front there is a lesser mound, and at its base beyond there is a square enclosure, 66 feet by 66 feet, and strongly protected on the west side by a parapet of earth boulders. On the opposite side this bank has long disappeared, probably by a landslide, where there is an almost perpendicular drop into the River Ayr below,

This structure is probably the bailey or outer court of an ancient mote. It has been proved that the flat summit of the larger mound has very dark soil of occupation and a clay floor at a depth of nearly 2 feet. Part of the west margin of the summit has been carried away by a landslide in to the Hole Burn, exposing a continuation of the parapet from the bailey as well as a refuse heap beyond the wall. From this exposure the writer has, from time to time, collected from a mass of red burnt ash, charcoal and pieces of slag, bones, teeth, and horn-cores of the British wild ox, and other relics. Only a preliminary excavation has been made.

The last of the early sites to be noticed is the one near Blackside, Muirkirk (No. 14), which was described in the *Proceedings*, vol. lx. p. 262.

Further than mentioning the excavation in the present summary there is little more to add. The site, before excavation,

closely resembled other constructions in the district associated doubtless, in later times, with agricultural, notably sheep-farming, pursuits. It was revealed from the relics recovered that the site had been occupied and used from Bronze Age to mediaeval times. Fragments of a course, undecorated Bronze Age vessel, pot-boilers, a hammer-stone, a knife and three scrapers of flint, a pointed knife of a grey stone and a scraper of chert, which were found were referable to the earliest occupation; a jet armet and saddle-quern indicated an early Iron Age occupation; glazed potshreds pointed to very mediaeval times; and finally, a brass shoe-buckle and silver button suggested an eighteenth-century occupation.

LATER SITES

We now approach examples of the later sites, and a sufficient number will be chosen, and very briefly described, to illustrate the diversity of form and simplicity of structure of those small and early pastoral dwellings. Without exception, all of them seem to have passed out of local history, and tradition even is silent.

These sites are now unknown by name, and are so worn away by time and weather that only the faintest trace of them is visible above ground. In their construction lime has in no case been used, and where built of stone, the interstices of the remaining foundations have been packed with clay. Where the walls have been of turf - as in most cases - the divots have been laid, for most parts, on a foundation of rough, unhewn boulders without tool marks.

A short distance east of the Martyrs' Monument at Ayr Moss and slightly east of the excavation already referred to there, on a low hillock of dry ground, three boulders, appearing through the bent and heather, suggested from their position the segment of a circle. The turf was stripped off and the floor of a circular hut (No. 15) was laid bare, measuring 14 feet in diameter. The hearth was on the floor slightly south of the centre, the red, burnt embers of the last fire heaped over it. Two kinds of pottery were found on the site, one fairly thick, buff-coloured, and wheel-turned, with a very thin and orn tinge of green glaze; and the other, light red, thin, and unglazed. Only a few small shards were found, and they appear to belong to the fifteenth or early sixteenth century. Fragments of chert, several unworked flakes of flint, and one small nodule of "keel," showing several faces of wear, were also recovered.

At the junction of the Greenock Water with the Ayr, high up on the margin of the "scaur" overlooking the river and on the northern edge of Ayr Moss, there are very compact foundation walls (No. 16), 35 feet in length and 3 feet in thickness and still below ground level. The writer discovered them by kicking away the moss-grown peat to ascertain if such a magnificent outlook ever sustained the site of an outpost. The laying bare of the walls and the interior was carried out in keeping with this idea by an enthusiastic platoon of local volunteers on the outward limit of a route march, and to test the efficiency of their entrenching tools. The exploration, for lack of time, was confined to the limits of the structure, thus reducing the chances of finding relics, usually more prolific outside and within the range of the doorway. Within the east interior of the walls a large circular stone hearth was discovered on the floor, over which was the accumulation of the last peat fire in red, burnt ash. The back or north wall must have disappeared ages ago over the scaur, which is now grown green. No relics were discovered, and the mystery of this site, in such a peculiar situation, remains unsolved.

Approaching the neighbourhood of the hut-circles (No. 17) there is a group of three hut-remains on the left bank of the Shiel Burn, a tributary of the March Burn. The walls - formed of earth - are so worn by the process of time as to be hardly discernable. The first has a length of 51 feet, formed by two low walls, 9 feet apart, and meeting with a curve at

either end. There is a narrow opening, 9 feet from the south end, in front of which a section of turf was taken up, and underneath there was a heavy deposit of charcoal of wood and peat ash which had, in keeping with ancient custom, been thrown out of the doorway.

The second - of similar form - a few feet away, is 15 feet in length and 7 feet wide, with no definite entrance. The third, which lies several feet to the north, has a circular wall, 12 feet in diameter, faintly showing above ground. The interior was carefully explored, when a hearth, with red-coloured ash over it, was discovered on the floor of clay to the east of the centre.

On the opposite bank there is a hut-foundation (No. 18), the earth and stone walls of which are formed by a parallel cutting into the sloping bank. The length is 17 feet and the width 8 feet. The interior was cleared out, when a constructed fireplace, 16 inches wide and 36 inches in length, was found full of ashes in the south end of the structure.

Continuing a short distance further up the burn on the same bank and in a sheltered position there is another small oblong dwelling or sheiling (No. 19), which probably gives the burn its name. Before excavation the remains appeared so slightly above ground as to be almost invisible, except to the most observant eye. The interior length is 15 feet 9 inches and the width 8 feet. The interior was carefully cleared out, and, at a depth of about 15 inches, the hearth, with red, burnt ash, still covering it, was discovered on the rudely paved floor. The walls had been formed of turf and clay with an occasional boulder in the foundations. In order to ascertain the probable time of occupation it was desirable to find examples of the pottery which the occupants had in use, and to this end the turf was removed over a section of green ground in front of a narrow opening in the south wall. It was found that while the heather may grow, as it usually does, over the walls of ancient sites, it rarely grows over the refuse heaps of spent ash in front of doorways.

In trenching this section carefully over, a goodly number of pot-shreds were recovered with parts of rims representing eight different vessels of thin build, wheel-turned, and with a faint and worn tinge, for most part of green glaze, which might date from the end of the fifteenth to the early seventeenth century. With the pottery several flakes of flint and chert were picked up.

Further to the east and only a short distance south-west of No. 2 hut-circle, on the left bank of the Aikler Burn - the burn of oaks, which have now vanished - the foundation walls of a mediaeval home-stead of a later date (No. 20) have been brought to light. On being cleared of turf and debris it was found that the dwelling had a total length of 33 feet and a width of 12 feet, with foundation walls built of hill stones and clay, varying in width from 25 inches to 36 inches. The hearth, 4 feet in diameter and without a kerb, was on the flagstones of the floor of the larger compartment of the two into which the house had been divided. A great number of potsherds were recovered from under the turf beyond the walls, and all of them were of a thicker and more robust nature than those at the Shiel Burn. Almost all the fragments had a superior green glaze with occasional examples of black, brown, and pale yellow. Several shards were of buff-coloured clay, soft in texture, and covered with a very thin white slip, easily flaked off, and certainly representing not more than one dish.

The inhabitants of this dwelling would in all probability use the drying kiln mentioned in connection with No. 2 hut-circle, and the almost entire absence of white or slip pottery may afford a cue as to the time when the kiln was in use.

Some distance to the east, on the west tributary of the Slackshaw Burn, and on a dry ridge of ground in the centre of the moor, at an elevation of 1000 feet, there is a group of eleven

hut-foundations (no. 21) of peculiar character.

This little hamlet, possibly a group of summer shielings for the summer herding of grazing stock, has no local name and no place in local tradition, and has only recently been discovered. Its remote situation, away from any track or road, and the nature of the ground precludes the idea of any interference, such as the removal of the foundation walls. The individual members of this group of ancient dwellings are so much alike in measurement that they may reasonably be described as a whole. Their interior length varies from 15 feet to 23 feet, and their interior breadth from 8 feet to 10 feet, and all are without divisional walls or compartments. It is possible, however, that wickerwork and clay, or wattle and daub, may have been used for partitions. Two of the structures are oval on plan, and have earthen walls, while the remainder have had turf and clay walls built on stone foundations, which vary from 2 feet to 3 feet in width.

The stone foundations - now exposed - exhibit a decided line of advancement in early hut-building. The oldest, evidently, are those of oval formation, an improvement on the more ancient circular hut. The next developments exhibit foundations of rough hill stones laid down in straight walls and semi-circular ends. There are others with straight walls and large boulder stones in each well-rounded corner; and the latest, and last occupied evidently, has straight walls and square corners.

The pottery recovered from this group has been found at a depth of fully 12 inches under the turf, among the deposits of peat ash and charcoal which had been thrown out of the doorways. The potsherds vary; most, but not all, have a thin, green glaze, the clay is soft in texture and red in colour, and all the vessels are wheel-turned. They may date from the late fifteenth to the early seventeenth century.

From the excavations carried out, ten of the hut-remains are proved to have been inhabited. In the exploration confined to the interior of one with semi-circular ends, nine flakes of flint were recovered and only one shard of pottery. Throughout, neither glass, wood, nor metal have yet been discovered.

The last example to be given of an oblong hut (No. 22) in this neighbourhood is situated on a dry ridge, a short distance south of the Sanquhar Road Bridge over the Garpel. Its interior measurement, 20½ feet in length and 7½ feet in breadth, is in keeping with the others. Otherwise it shows more above ground, the remaining walls are of superior build, and it is probably of a later date. The hearth, without a kerb, was found on the paved floor at one end.

The entrance, 2 feet wide, faced the north, and on removal of a wide section of turf in front the usual accumulation of ash and embers was met with. From this, potsherds of four different vessels were recovered, probably of sixteenth century origin. The metal foot of what might have been an aquamanile, a piece of red keel with rubbed facets, and several unworked flakes of flint were included amongst the finds.

The next example of primitive construction, probably of a more pastoral nature, is situated on the lower margin of the hill-slope, a short distance north-east of the farm of Netherwood, in the Greenock Water district. Here we have two circular enclosures (No. 23) formed by strong earthen banks, flanked on the south by a long deep, and narrow syone-lined pen, opening into one of the enclosures. Adjacent to the west bank there is a long and wider pen, paved with flagstones. On the east side there is another narrow pen excavated out of the ground for most part, and joining at the lower end with the one on the south.

(Continued in Chapter Twenty Two, Page 101)

From 18th October, Issue:—

EDITORIAL

Hitherto the activities of the "Advertiser" have been confined to its own home parish, but to-day its sphere of usefulness and influence is extended : the addition to the title explains itself ("The Muirkirk Advertiser and Douglasdale Gazette"). It is a truism that there is no standing still—that there is always a movement forward or backward, consciously or unconsciously, and the natural incentive is to advance. What more opportune time for adopting the forward movement for the "Advertiser" than when the sheet has just attained its majority? Twenty-one years ago (in September, 1907, to be exact) the first copy of the "Advertiser" was issued in fear and trembling, but stage fright has long since passed off, thanks to the very kindly way in which the local public have all along received the sheet. That it has come to be eagerly looked forward to weekly by the residents of Muirkirk parish as a whole, and many abroad, goes without saying, and that it will take such a place in the hearts and homes of the good folks of Douglas and district is our hope and aim

VITAL STATISTICS (1927)

Births—91. Amongst the lowest numbers since registration began. The lowest number was 87 in 1926. The highest number was 267 in 1879.

Marriages—29. Normal Year.

Deaths—40. Normal year. Only four deaths occurred in the last quarter, while there were none in the month of October. The lowest number ever recorded was 31 in 1926. The highest number registered was 156 in 1877

RETIRAL

Mr Thomas Floyd, our local poet, retired in April, after 56 years' service on the railway, forty-eight of which he had been on the footplate. Tom has some record. In all that time he was never late for duty, never had a mishap, and never was in a fault—this latter means of course he was never found out. All men commit misdemeanours, but only some are found out. Very good, Tom.

Yesterday the writer ran across Tom, figuratively speaking of course, and he says he is enjoying himself immensely. During our crack he said he never tasted tobacco, and never was intoxicated. What joys he must have missed! Of course prices are a bit prohibitive. And mind you, he says he feels no itchiness about his shoulders, as if wings were beginning to sprout.

In his odd time he has been going in for some statistics. For instance, he says he has travelled forty thousand miles to and from work, and he had taken with him 2,500 gallons of tea. And presumably he swallowed it, too! Tom didn't let on how many tons of bread he had eaten, or how many bullocks he had worried, or how many miles of poetry he had made. Anyway, he'll have plenty of time to look after his flowers, and to make poetry now, and all will wish him many happy years in retirement. he is still hale and hearty.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

The derelict shop of Alex. Vallance in Main Street, the scene of a recent fire, has been acquired by the District Council and made into a storeroom and fire station.

The Gala Bus Co. started a passenger service to Kilmarnock in March.

Mr Thomas Wharrie was appointed foreman baker at the Co-operative Society in place of Mr Thomas McLeod.

At Cumnock, Mr John Hazle's wire-haired fox terrier, "Hareshaw Herbert," won four first and four special prizes.

Coal-cutting machines were introduced at Kames Pit in April, as well as a new dross washer.

Work started on the new reservoir at Auldhouseburn.

Work started with the renovation and extension of Furnace Road School, and part of the Company's Knowe was being removed to make way for the children's playground.

Work started on dismantling Wellwood House in April.

Work was commenced with the new housing scheme at the top of Glasgow Road (Middlefield Drive).

Rev. W. Jenkins left Muirkirk E.U. Church to take up a similar position in Wigton.

Two blocks of Council houses are to be erected at Glenbuck.

John Kilpatrick, Muirkirk, won the Scottish Singles Quaiting Championship at Paisley.

The Main Street premises of the Co-operative were electrically lit for the first time on 19th October.

Mr John Wilson granted permission for an extension to the Empire Bar, including a hall which will seat about 40 persons.

ELECTION RESULTS

County Council (1 Seat)

Colthart, John	864
Henderson, John	605

Parish Council

Village Ward (4 Seats)

Henderson, John	451
Steven, Robert	440
Colthart, John	433
Williamson, James	386
McLeod, John	316
Pringle, Andrew	311
Gibson, Charles	286

Ironworks Ward (3 Seats)

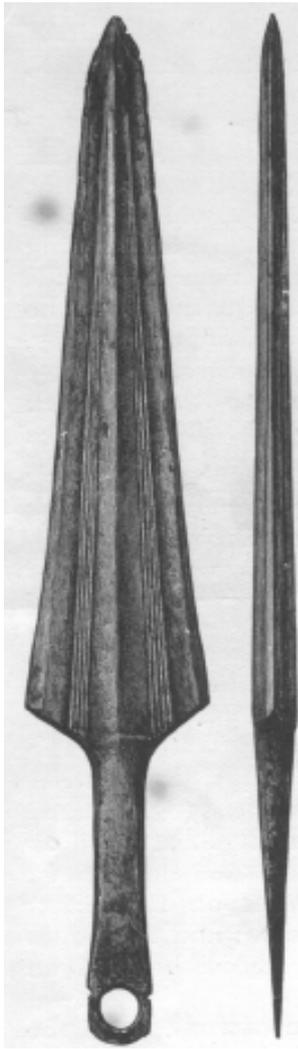
Srtitt, D. S.	295
Love, Hugh	289
McKenzie, Norman	222
Baird, Dugald	104
Cook, Daniel	79
Cumming, Robert	71

Glenbuck Ward (2 Seats)

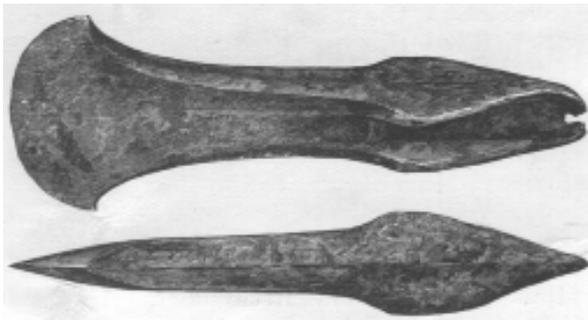
Crosbie, Robert	133
Davidson, James	131
Bell, Hugh	87
Crosbie, Andrew	82

Landward (2 Seats)

Moffat, John	98
Craig, James	92
Black, Neil	37
Steven, George	33



BRONZE SPEAR-HEAD FROM WHITEHAUGH MOSS



FLANGED BRONZE AXE FROM WEST GLENBUCK

OPENING OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY'S NEW PREMISES

Saturday, 14th December, was an important day in the calendar of Muirkirk Co-operative Society, Ltd., in that it marked the formal opening of the new range of shops and offices at the junction of Glasgow Road and Main Street. Mr Malcolm of the S.C.W.S. performed the opening ceremony in front of a very large gathering, and a luncheon followed in the Dundas Hall.

The building, which is a one-storeyed erection, is built with brick, faced with polished red granite, and has a frontage of roughly ninety feet. The whole is divided into sections, accommodation being provided for a boardroom, office, drapery and boot department, a bakery and confectionery shop with tea-room behind, and another shop which has not so far been utilised. The whole edifice presents a striking appearance, in marked contrast to the old smiddy and dwelling houses which occupied the site not so very long ago.

The secretary's office and board-room are replete with the latest office furniture, while the drapery and bakery shops are fitted up on a scale seen only in the latest city shops. Six large windows are allocated to the drapery for boots, men's wear, ladies' wear, general drapery, and house furnishings, while the bakery has two—confectionery and cakes, etc.

In addition every convenience is offered the employees, while a central heating chamber provides heat for the whole of the premises by means of hot water radiators. The lighting is also a feature of the new building, this being supplied from the electrical plant recently installed by the Society at their premises on the other side of the street.

A commodious garage at the back completes a picture of which every member of the Store should feel proud, and even the least sentimental Muirkirker should be delighted at being able to claim such an up-to-date. establishment in Muirkirk.

FOOTBALL (Season 1927-28)

At the annual general meeting of Muirkirk Athletic it was reported that there had been a deficit of £60 over the past two seasons, and it was decided to drop the team for 1927-28. This meant, of course, with the Cherries also not functioning, that there would be no Junior football in the district. As a result most of the local players were fixed up with other Clubs, quite a few joining the new combination at Douglas—Douglasdale.

Muirkirk did manage to get a juvenile team—Muirkirk Rovers, who managed to reach the fourth round of the Scottish Cup, where they went down 2-0 to Dumfries Ashfield. The Muirkirk team was:—J. Morrison; W. Higgins, L. Queen; G. Park, J. Park, A. Gardiner; J. Hume, J. Beck, H. Samson, J. McDonald, D. Murray.

GOLF

An exhibition match took place at Auldhouseburn Course, when among the players was Mr J. Revie Richmond, a local product now living in Ayr. Mr Richmond came in with the best card—68 (rounds of 35 and 33), which is a course record, the former record of 69 being made by Mr Garson a few years ago.

In the Scottish Civil Service Championship, open to the whole of Scotland, and played over 36 holes at Gleneagles, local golfer Mr Revie Richmond won the handicap competition off 6. Mr A. Haxton won the championship, with our own local product tying for second place two strokes behind.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1928**BIRTHS**

- BONE.—At Beaconhill, on 29th March, to Mr and Mrs John Bone; a son.
- BIRRELL.—In U.S.A. on 18th June to Mr and Mrs Robert Birrell, a daughter.
- SLOAN.—At Ayr on 30th June, the wife of Andrew Sloan, Bankend; a daughter
- McMEEKIN.—At Dalbeattie to Mr and Mrs James McMeekin; a son.
- McCARTNEY.—At Ardrossan on 7th August to Mr and Mrs William McCartney; a daughter.

MARRAIGES

- JAMES THOMSON to JENNIE WILSON on 1st August.
- STANLEY WHITEHEAD to FRANCES CLARK in New Zealand
- A. OTTAWAY to DOROTHY HANSFORD on 18th September in India.
- JOHN HUNTER to GWENDOLINE TAYLOR on 19th Oct.

DEATHS

- ROBERTSON.—At Glasgow Road on 12th January, Margaret McCall, aged 71 years.
- KAIN.—At Irvine on 21st January, James Kain.
- MURPHY.—At Kilmarnock on 19th January, Catherine Murphy, aged 11 years (of Gibson's Buildings, Muirkirk).
- McGLADRIE.—At 18 Springhill Terrace on 3rd March, William McGladrie.
- DEVLIN.—At Wanlass Place on 4th March, William Devlin, aged 27 years.
- CRUICKSHANK.—At Albert Place on 17th March, Wee Tommy, aged 19 months.
- MURDOCH.—At 7 Kames Row on 18th March, Mary Murdoch, aged 40 years.
- BELL.—At Glasgow Road on 9th April, Helen Bell, aged 12 years.
- BARR.—At Braehead, Glenbuck, on 24th April, Isabella Izett.
- SMITH.—In Australia on 12th March, Margaret Reid (late of Lightshaw).
- CALDOW.—At the Isle, Muirkirk, on 28th April, Johann Sharp.
- THOMSON.—At Kilmarnock on 1st May, George Thomson, aged 51 years (of Jack's Buildings).
- WEIR.—At Heathfield, Muirkirk, on 15th May, Elizabeth Hunter, aged 89 years.
- BAIRD.—At Main Street on 17th May, Margaret Baird, aged 19 years.
- HIGGINS.—At 53 Springhill Terrace on 29th May, Mary Callaghan, aged 73 years.
- THOMSON.—At Bankhead on 2nd June, Jane Russell, aged 75 years.
- TELFER.—At Wellwood Street on 20th June, Janet McKie, aged 89 years.
- SAMSON.—At Smallburn on 21st June, Marion Murray, aged 77 years.

- SLOAN.—At Ayr on 30th June, Grace Shankland. (of Bankend).
- LAIRD.—At Glasgow on 2nd July, Elizabeth Vallance, aged 33 years.
- LOCHRIE.—At Glasgow on 2nd August, Gavin Lochrie, aged 50 years.
- KEAN.—At 31 Springhill Terrace on 5th August, John Kean, aged 74 years.
- MURDOCH.—At 9 Kames Row on 5th August, David Murdoch, aged 41 years.
- JACKSON.—At 6 Whyte's Row, Glenbuck, on 29th August, Harry Jackson, aged 74 years.
- ALSTON.—At Sornlea on 23rd September, William Alston (Blacksmith), aged 67 years.
- GILCHRIST.—In Canada on 30th August, Eliza Galbraith, aged 65 years.
- BRADFORD.—At 1 Springhill Terrace on 30th September, Wee William, aged 1 week.
- NEILSON.—At Burnside, Muirkirk, on 29th September, William Neilson (retired farmer), aged 84 years.
- WEIR.—At 13 Old School Row, Glenbuck, on 29th October, Janet Weir, aged 36 years.
- WILSON.—At Main Street on 30th October, Thomas Wilson (Newsagent), aged 26 years.
- WILSON.—At Skares on 5th November, Frederick Wilson, aged 79 years (late of Muirkirk).
- CALDOW.—At Mossend, Main Street, on 12th November, John Caldow, aged 26 years.
- TAYLOR.—At 14 Old Terrace on 12th November, Wee Matt, aged 3 months.
- SAMSON.—At Smallburn on 24th November, John Samson, aged 48 years.
- McLACHLAN.—At Kilmarnock on 8th December, Nettie Gilfillan, aged 26 years.
- ARMSTRONG.—At Eyemouth on 15th December, Peggy Armstrong.
- MACKIN.—At 53 Kames Row on 16th December, Patrick Mackin, aged 86 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At 2 Kirkgreen on 17th December, Bella Forsyth, aged 50 years.
- PURDIE.—At Redding, Polmont, on 20th December, David Purdie, aged 73 years.

Reduction in Prices.**SPECIAL FOR THIS WEEKEND.**

Gigots and Loins,	-	1/2 per lb.
Shoulders,	-	1/- „
Flanks and Shanks,	-	10d „

MACLACHLAN, Butcher.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

(1929)

NOTES ON
EXCAVATIONS OF PREHISTORIC
AND LATER SITES AT MUIRKIRK,
1913—1927

By ARCHIBALD FAIRBAIRN, F.S.A.Scot

Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
(Continued from Previous Chapter)

Behind, to the north-east, there is a group of three hut-remains with stone foundations - one is circular and two are oblong. The stonework, both of the pens and huts, was buried deep under the ruined earth walls, and cleared out only after considerable spade-work. The excavations disclosed probable sheep-folds and ewe-bughts for ewe-milking, and, judging from the nature of the potsherds recovered from the hut-remains, the whole construction was in use in late mediaeval times.

From this site eastwards, as far as Priesthill, a great many long, narrow, earthen enclosures or pens are to be met with on the lower edge of the moor. Several have been partly excavated, all of which are stone-lined, mostly paved, and measure from 4 to 5 feet wide and from 25 feet to 50 feet in length.

At about 200 feet below the summit of Middlefield Law, on the southern slope, and at an elevation of 1300 feet above sea-level, there is a hut-foundation (No. 24), rectangular in form, described in the *Proceedings*, vol. xlvi. p. 377. Its size is 12 feet by 7 feet, the entrance, a foot wide, passing aslant through the eastern wall. It is well paved with flagstones, and has a fireplace in the north-west corner.

"The relics found were fragments of coarse pottery, glazed and unglazed. . . . For what reason the hut was constructed at such a height is far from clear. A summer sheiling would hardly be necessary in the locality; there are no signs of cultivation, yet it was undoubtedly made for and inhabited by human beings. Judging by the thickness of the overlying turf it must have been abandoned centuries ago." The pottery is probably sixteenth - or seventeenth - century ware.

Immediately above this hut-site there was discovered a level cutting excavated across the lower slope leading to the summit. The cutting is 120 paces in length, terminating in a filled-in pit at each end. Above the centre of the cutting there are two spring wells. One pit was opened to its original size, when it was found to be 10 feet wide on the surface and 10 feet deep, and cut into clay. At the bottom there was much silt, proving it had been used for collecting water, undoubtedly from the springs above. This effort of great labour may have been carried out by the inhabitants of the hut just described to collect and store water in times of great scarcity, and the means employed are both simple and practical.

The next excavation to be noticed in passing is that of an ancient kiln with fue (No. 26), and it is described in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxviii. p. 378. Its situation is 100 yards below the ruined homestead of Lamonburn, east of the farm of

Middlefield. In the description of this kiln it is stated that "the diameter at the top is 6 feet 6 inches, and the bottom 3 feet; its depth 7 feet 6 inches. It is faced with stone inside, and the bottom is neatly paved with flat stones. The fue is 9 feet long and 2 feet high, built with stones and paved like the kiln; its mouth, opening into the cleuch, is formed of three heavy stones. The mouth of the flue was full of ashes." The kiln is analogous to that adjacent to No. 2 hut-circle, and as both are situated on land which has been under cultivation, a common use may be ascribed to both.

Reference has been made to long, narrow enclosures, formed with earthen banks, lined along the ground-level interiorly with stone. High up on Grasshill Ridge, south-east of Priesthill, there is a construction of somewhat similar nature (No. 27), 145 yards west of the standing stone, of modern erection, on the highest point of the ridge. The ground is rocky, and the enclosure, 33 feet in length and 4½ feet to 5 feet wide, is formed by heavy boulders arranged on either side. Near the centre and on the right or north side there is a shorter enclosure, 12 feet in length and 3½ feet wide, leading from it. On the right of the entrance, which is in the east end, there is a row of ten large boulders, arranged in line, in front of the shorter chamber. On clearing out the larger compartment, and under 18 inches of peat, a flat, unornamented comb with several teeth remaining was discovered on the rocky floor.

In a line south-west, and at a lower level on the Berry Craigs, north of Ponesk Glen, there is a similar but larger enclosure (No. 28). This construction yielded no relics under excavation, although part of it closely resembles the remains of an earth-house minus the roofing flags. This part is 48 feet in length and curved, and various from 2 feet wide near the entrance to 4 feet along its course. It is from 4 feet to 5 feet deep, and paved for most of its length. The entrance is 12 inches wide between two large boulders.

Adjoining this construction on the left, at a few feet from the south end, there is a filled-in trench, 36 feet in length, with several boulders in line, and terminating in a stone-lined chamber, 20 feet in length and 4 feet 3 inches wide. In clearing out this chamber several fragments of amber-coloured flint were found near the entrance.

After careful excavating it is not quite clear what those constructions were intended for. Both command an extensive outlook, but there is no distinct evidence of human occupation. It is now surmised they belong to a class of ewe-bughts associated probably with the ewe-milking practices of a bygone time.

Quite near to the last construction, and also on the Berry Craigs, there are the remains of a dwelling (No. 29), measuring 30 feet long and 8 feet wide. It has two compartments. The remaining walls are strongly built with stone and clay and are 36 inches wide. Thick turf covered the floor, which was found to be paved, the flat hearth occupying a position close to the divisional wall in the larger compartment. A few feet beyond the entrance there was a large mound covered with a sward of green grass. This mound - of ash - employed the excavating party fully three days in turning over. The pottery discovered was entirely of the sixteenth or seventeenth century, and all the fragments bore a superior green glaze, with the exception of several shards of red-coloured, unglazed ware.

Assuming that the inhabitants of this dwelling used the

Assuming that the inhabitants of this dwelling used the narrow enclosures referred to near them, it is of interest to note that there was no trace of white or slip pottery of any kind within or without the dwelling. This may afford a clue as to the period of occupation of the dwelling, and when these narrow constructions were in general use in the district.

Before bringing this summary to a close mention should be made of a site, very recently excavated under the personal supervision of Mrs E. C. Broun Lindsay, F.S.A.Scot., which had been occupied from at least the seventeenth century to comparatively modern times.

The site is that of Priesthill (No. 30), occupied for some time by John Brown, the "Christian Carrier" of Covenanting times, who was shot there in the presence of his wife and children, on 1st May, 1685, by John Graham of Claverhouse, later Viscount Dundee.

The Priesthill in question is some distance north-east from the presently occupied homestead of that name, and the peat moss that lies between, and from which John Brown obtained his peats, is still made use of each year in May to provide fuel for the present Priesthill.

While the grave of the martyr, enclosed and monumented, is well known in its lonely situation, the actual site of the house has been vaguely guessed at, the structure having been removed early in the nineteenth century.

It was felt desirable to locate the site, and, if possible, to restore and preserve the foundations, if any remained.

About 45 yards south-east of the monument there was a large grass-covered mound, in front of which was a small plot of land suggesting a garden, and bearing traces of "lazy beds," a pastoral method of growing potatoes still in vogue in the locality. Immediately behind the mound - about the width of a roadway - the green sward appeared artificially flat, and there were two large enclosures, formed by feal dykes, to the left, front and rear. The enclosures, doubtless sheep-bughts, measured 78 feet by 52 feet and 74 feet by 66 feet respectively, and the enclosure banks were 6 feet thick.

There were other variously shaped, smaller, and deeper earth-works, which had led to a confusion of ideas regarding the site of the house, but it was apparent from the nature of the whole heaps that the mound was composed chiefly of burnt ash - the midden really - and therefore, according to early custom, it would lie in front of the dwelling. (fig. 14).

The turf was taken up over the whole of the flat area behind the mound, and the remains of the foundation walls of John Brown's house were gradually revealed. On completion of removal of turf and super-incumbent debris, the accompanying plan was made, illustrating very accurately the remains of the dwelling as now seen, while the accompanying ground-plan gives the position of Brown's grave.

It will be seen that the house from the grave is 40 yards distant, and in a line 80° south-east. Although 242 years have elapsed since Brown's death at Priesthill, interest in this Scottish Covenanter has in no way declined. John Brown's name appears in the Kirk Session Records of the parish, and, from historical and local accounts, he was a man of superior intellect and independent mind. He refused to take the Abjuration Oath offered him by Claverhouse, and the penalty was summary execution before two witnesses. From this - the concur-

rence of local tradition and the proximity of the grave - the execution was carried out at the house after Brown had taken a final farewell of his wife and children.

The house has been almost totally removed. From the remaining foundations (fig. 15), which are chiefly 3 feet wide, it was found that the length of the whole building was 74 feet by 20 feet, with the dwelling-house, barn, stable, and byre in a continuous row. It is evident from the remaining portions of the floor that the house consisted of a "but and ben" with a flat hearth, 30 inches in diameter, and a well-fire, 28 inches long, 13 inches wide, and 8 inches deep, in one end. Several flags of a stone floor remain.

The floors of the barn, stable, and byre are cobbled, and the flat open drain which runs down the middle is paved. The space between the house and the midden is 14 feet wide, paved, and has a gutter, 6 inches wide, running through the whole length.

The mounting pillar, or "loupin-onstane," is conspicuous, measuring 3 feet by 3 feet, the step of which is 2½ feet by 1½ foot.

The mound in front was a formidable undertaking to trench over, measuring 40 feet by 33 feet and 9 feet deep. Its thorough examination yielded many relics, including pottery, both of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and of later date, eight spindle-whorls, fragments of a wool carder and of three sickles, seven harrow-tines, five horse shoes, part of a horse's bit, two hooks, three hinges, an axle-tree pin, a pair of pincers, parts of a pair of sheep shears, part of a pair of scissors, a smoothing iron and other objects of this metal, eight very much corroded copper coins ranging from the middle of the seventeenth to the end of the eighteenth century and a halfpenny trade token, eleven metal buttons, neatly cut leather soles for women's shoes, fragments of a buff coat with seven plain, flat metal buttons still attached, part of a heather rope, five globular blue glass beads, two pieces of slate pencils, half of a pair of eyeglasses, and a small glass phial.

The mound yielded besides, a collection of upwards of eighty whole and very small tobacco pipe-heads of clay, all with broken stems and suggestive of a time of solitude and seclusion.

Priesthill, when a farm, had its cultivated land - now moorland - behind and on both sides of the house, enclosed by extensive fael dykes. The land in front is the peat moss, with a streamlet between, down to which there is still visible a cart tract, and also a ford, for the carting of peats.

An analogy can be found at Harwood, north-east of the farm of Middlefield, and entered in Weatherly's Plan of the District, dated 1826, as the "Site of Harwood." The situation of the dwelling - removed and turf-grown - the adjoining sheep-bughts the refuse heap in front, and the finds within it, are much in keeping with those at Priesthill.

I desire to express by indebtedness to Miss A. L. Shaw Smith for visiting Priesthill and preparing the plans; and also to Major Dugald Baird, J.P., for preparing the plan of the kiln at No. 2 hut-circle.

(Concluded)



Mr ANDREW PRINGLE

To mark his jubilee in the service of Messrs William Baird & Co., Ltd., a company of about eighty gathered in the Iron-works Institute to pay tribute to Mr Andrew Pringle, who started with the firm in 1878 at Dalry. After six years he came to Muirkirk. In replying to the toast of "The Firm," Mr James Tweedie, Prestwick, gave some interesting statistics. Although in existence for practically a 100 years, the firm had acquired the collieries and works over 72 years ago. Coal had been a secondary consideration at first, the manufacturing of iron being the primary object. Mr Tweedie said that for every ton of coal produced locally, seventeen tons of water had to be pumped away.

VITAL STATISTICS (1928)

Births	104.	Normal year.
Marriages	28.	Normal Year
Deaths	47.	Normal Year

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Mr James Brown (Labour)	16,981
Major C. I. A. Dubs (Unionist)	12,240
<hr/>	
Majority for Mr Brown	4,741
Old Electorate	Men 18,808 Women 11,420—30,228
New ..	Men 20,786 Women 18,286—39,612

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Muirkirk H.G. School football team were going great guns in 1929, and commanded a strong support, special trains carrying the enthusiasts to away games. That year the team won the Artea No. 5 Schools Football League. An uncompleted League table makes interesting reading:—

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Muirkirk	12	10	2	0	61	8	20
Lugar	12	7	3	2	44	16	16
St. Patrick's	10	5	4	1	19	23	11
Auchinleck	8	4	3	1	16	16	9
Cumnock Ac.	10	3	4	3	21	24	9
Bank	9	3	5	1	10	18	7
New Cum.	10	2	5	3	15	30	7
Mauchline	9	0	8	1	8	60	1

Playing for Muirkirk that season were:—T. Barrie; J. Davidson, W. Anderson; G. Wallace, P. McNally, J. McCall; W. Park, J. Fleming, J. McCall, T. Symington, J. Moffat.

SNIPPETS

The sudden death was announced of Mr David Stitt, J.P., on 14th March.

Mr R. A. Leslie, former Clerk and Parish Registrar, retired after more than fifty years with the Railway.

Kames Institute and Kames Mission Church celebrated their Semi-Jubilee in April.

The extension to the Reservoir was completed in June.

Contracts for the work of erecting new purification plants at the Gas Works, Kateshall and Smallburn were let—the work costing £5,000.

A unique event took place in Muirkirk on 11th September with a wedding in the Parish Church. The contracting parties were Miss Barbara B. Henderson and Mr William Scott. Barbara, of course, is a daughter of the Minister, Rev. John Henderson, who conducted the service.

Rev. W. Alexander replaced Rev James Greenwood as Minister of Muirkirk U.F. Church.

The death was announced of Mr Robert D. Greenwood, who was a keen Freemason. He was initiated into Lodge St. Thomas in 1873, and three years later he was installed as R.W.M.

In October work commenced with the building of Council house in Wellwood Street.

Mr George Muir, Stableyard, appointed caretaker at the cemetery.

For the very first time, houses in the village were given a street number

FATAL ACCIDENT 5th Sept. Issue)

One of the saddest and most tragic accidents that ever befell our village occurred on Thursday of last week, when two of her sons perished as the result of a fall in Kames Pit. The accident took place about 1.30 in the afternoon, when a heavy fall entombed Michael Parker (34), Springhill Terrace, and James Cassagranda (16), Garronhill. News of the accident quickly travelled, and a rescue party was at once working feverishly to extricate their comrades. The rescuers were within a few feet of the boy, who was able to speak, when a second fall took place, which, as well as finishing the boy speaking, almost engulfed the rescuers. Efforts were redouble, but, alas, were all in vain, all traces of life having gone when the bodies were recovered late in the afternoon. The tragedy cast a deep gloom over the village, and much sympathy was expressed for the bereaved relatives. Parker leaves a widow and two young children. As a mark of respect the pit was idle on Friday and Saturday (the usual "idle" day). Both Parker and casagranda were very popular with their mates, who paid their last tributes on Saturday, when all that is mortal of the victims was silently laid to rest in Muirkirk Cemetery, after being feelingly dedicated to the grave by their respective ministers. The attendance at the funerals were very large. The local places of business were closed during the time of the funerals as a sign of respect.

CHURCH UNION

After 86 years of separation, the two strongest branches of our Church were re-united in Edinburgh yesterday (2nd October), when the United Free Church and the Established Church again merged into one Church—the Church of Scotland. As a result, the name of the old U.F. Church is now Wellwood Church, and that of the Established Church—Muirkirk Old Parish Church.

FOOTBALL (May 2nd Issue)

It seems as if junior football in the district is slowly but surely fading out of existence altogether. The latest club to throw in the sponge is Cumnock Juniors F.C., and with New Cumnock, Auchinkleck, Muirkirk, and Glenbuck all out of the picture, the football future for this part of the county looks decidedly black. Financial troubles, and not want of players or playing ability—therefore, professionalism, is the cause with all of them,

James Nisbet, who has fixed up for another season with Ayr United, is taking part in the S.F.A continental tour. Norway, Holland, and Germany are included in the itinerary.

John Crosbie is to stay on at Birmingham, while James Shankly has again thrown in his lot with Southend United for next season.

Allan Gebbie, who was offered terms by St. Mirren, as yet has not seen his way to accept, and his name is now on the open-to-ransfer list. Rumours are associating his name with Morton and an English Club. Allan's move will be watched for with interest

Willie Duke has again put pen to paper for St. Bernard.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Amongst traders advertising their ware in the columns of 1929 were:—

JOHN KENNEDY, Ironmonger, Main Street.

HELENA M. BEGG, Tailoress, Wellwood Street.

JAMES TORBETT, JNR., Draper, Main Street.

JOHN ROBERTSON, Fishmonger.

Miss C. C. ARMSTRONG closed her Chemist's Business in Main Street, which was taken over by **J. MULHOLLAND**.

ALEX. DA PRATO, Chip Shop, Up the Stairs at the Masons Arms Hotel (commonly called the Shed-End).

Mrs N. DA PRATO, Chip Shop, Glasgow Road.

MUIRKIRK CO-OPERATIVE SOCY., LTD.



- OUR -
**TEA-
ROOM**

in the NEW PREMISES

is Now Open. 

**FIRST-CLASS SERVICE and MODERATE
CHARGES.**

There's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip,
That's true as true can be,
But you'll make no slip if you but sip
The Co-operative Tea—

At the **NEW TEA-ROOM.**



The one who is claimed as the most outstanding visitor to Scotland presently is Miss Martini, the eight-foot young lady of seventeen summers, whose appearance in most of the principal theatres has caused such a sensation, and she arrived this morning in Muirkirk. She has some interesting confessions to make concerning the disadvantages of being great. Seventeen and still growing! Along with a company which is reckoned the best that has ever toured the provinces, she will appear at the Picture House to-night, to-morrow, and Saturday. The other turns include

some real perfectly-built midgets, who do some wonderful acts; there is a great violinist, a dancer, and there is money to be earned—probably not very easily, however. There are to be competitions also, and a change of programme each night.—See advt.

FOOTBALL STOP PRESS

John Shankly, the old Glenbuck Cherrypicker, who has been off the game for a considerable period, has again donned the jersey, and signed for Carlisle United. John played for his new Club yesterday when they won by 2-0. If John displays anything like his previous form, Carlisle have made a good capture.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1929**BIRTHS**

SANDERSON.—At Toronto on 22nd April to Mr and Mrs T. Sanderson; a daughter.

OTTOWAY.—In India, on 15th October, to Mr and Mrs A. Ottoway; a daughter.

CLOSE.—In U.S.A. on 30th November to Mr and Mrs R. Close; a son.

MARRIAGES

JOHN McCALL to DAISY SALKELD on 26th December, 1928, in Australia

MINNIE HASTINGS to THOMAS DAVIDSON on 27th April in Australia.

ALEXANDER LIGERWWOD to ELSIE HAMILTON on 26th April.

DAVID LOVE to AGNES THOMSON on 19th June.

JOHN PRESTON to EDNA PAUL on 17th JULY.

ALEXANDER THOMSON to KATE SHIELDS on 24th July

DAVID BLAIKIE to ELIZABETH McINTYRE on 21st August.

ARCHIBALD GORRIE to MARGARET TAIT (Glenbuck) on 22nd August in U.S.A.

JOHN McMICHAEL to MERCIA HUTTON on 6th December

DEATHS.

PATERSON.—At Stableyard on 30th December, 1928, Wee Robert, aged 3½ months.

SPENCE.—At Blantyre on 29th December, 1928, Agnes Spence, aged 78 years (of Kirkburnhead Toll).

AIRD.—At Main Street on 9th January, Elizabeth Lochore, aged 67 years.

MARSHALL.—At Glasgow on 31st December, 1928, William Marshall, aged 15 years (of Kirkgreen).

MILLER.—At Barrhead on 14th January, Andrew Miller, aged 22 years.

BARR.—At Carluke on 25th January, Thomas Barr, aged 56 years (of Glenbuck).

McCALL.—At Smallburn on 25th January, Janet Irving, aged 60 years.

DORNAN.—At Montreal on 24th January, Isabella Runcie, aged 47 Years (of 12 Wellwood Avenue).

PURDIE.—At Garronhill on 14th February, Wee Nathaniel, aged 18 months.

STEVEN.—At Old Manse, Glasgow Road, on 4th March, Annie Steven, aged 32 years.

McDONALD.—At 69 The Square on 7th March, Isabella Hastings, aged 71 years.

FLOYD.—At Wee Torhill on 25th March, Agnes Floyd.

PEACOCK.—At 30 Kames Row on 16th March, Robert Peacock, aged 69 years.

BECK.—At Kilmarnock on 25th March, Angus Beck, aged 4 years and 11 months (of Smallburn).

SYMINGTON.—At Rosebank Cottage, Smallburn, on 14th April, Richard Symington, aged 21 years.

ANDERSON.—At Glasgow on 28th April, David Anderson, aged 12 years (of Albert Place).

BROWN.—At 21 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 5th May, Agnes Mitchell, aged 52 years.

DOW.—At 69 Linkieburn Square on 12th May, Wee Andrew, aged 8 months.

HODGE.—At Furnace Road on 8th June, Mary Hodge, aged 52 years.

LAW.—At Kilmarnock on 15th June, Irene Law, aged 7 years and 7 months.

ROBB.—At Garronhill on 22nd June, Marion Dalziel, aged 70 years.

JACK.—At Douglas on 12th July, Thomas Jack, aged 53 years (of Station House, Muirkirk).

COLVILLE.—In U.S.A. on 27th July Jean Young, aged 70 years (late of Victoria Buildings).

CASSAGRANDA.—As the result of an accident in Kames Pit on 29th August, James Cassagranda, aged 16 years (of Garronhill).

PARKER.—As the result of an accident in Kames Pit on 29th August, Michael Parker, aged 34 years (of 44 Springhill Terrace).

GIRDWOOD.—At Glasgow on 27th September, Robert D. Girdwood, aged 77 years.

McWHINNIE.—At Railway Buildings, Smallburn, on 14th October, Elizabeth McWhinnie, aged 54 years.

CAMPBELL.—In Canada on 20th October, Major Peter Campbell.

LOGAN.—At Fleming Cottage, Smallburn, on 13th November, Janet McCulloch, aged 81 years.

CALDOW.—At Glasgow on 22nd November, Hugh Caldow (Newsagent), aged 44 years; of Main Street.

DUNBAR.—In Canada on 20th November, Thomas Dunbar.

PARKER.—At Glasgow on 2nd December, Hugh Parker, aged 37 years.

FLEMING.—At Garronhill on 8th December, Mary Johnstone, aged 35 years.

ALLAN.—At Auldhouseburn on 23rd December, Nellie Allan, aged 31 years.

MRS N. DA PRATO

has now resumed preparing

Chips, Fish Suppers, and Hot Peas

Every Evening during the Winter Months.

Only the Best Quality of Food Cooked.

A Trial Solicited.

CIGARETTES, TOBACCOES,
ICES, and CONFECTIONS.

One Quality Only—The Very Best.

Refreshments Supplied for Dances, Weddings, Etc.
Charges Moderate.

Glasgow Road, Muirkirk.

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

(1930)

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

A hundred years ago Muirkirk Parish contained a number of farm houses and one or two notable places that have long since succumbed to the ravages of a century of time. Some are standing in ruins, while others have disappeared and left only their names to tell they have been.

In the Greenock Water district Hallsmuir, Cleuchheid, Cairniebottom, East Braeheid, West Braeheid, the Old Manse, Lamornburn, Harwood, Burnhoose, and Shawknowe have all gone west.

Hallsmuir stood about half-a-mile south-east from the Priesthill Farm.

Cleuchheid, apparently a small clachan, stood at the head of Ponesk Glen.

East Braeheid was on the north slope of the Sware Hill, a short distance south-east of Blackside, while West Braeheid stood near where the road turns down to Mansefield.

The Old Manse stood where Mansefield farmhouse now stands; probably when the present manse was built the Old Manse was converted into a farmhouse.

Harwood stood about a quarter mile west from the Forkings Cottage. Its site was lately discovered. In an old map of Muirkirk Parish dated 1828 it is marked as a ruin.

Burnhoose stood on the east side of the Burnfoot Burn, a short distance north from Burnfoot.

Shawknowe was the old name for the ruins seen on Burnfoot moor. Its later name was Johnstone's Tilework.

In the River Ayr district Muirfoot, Ashieburn, Waukmill, Wellwood House, Muirmill, Townfoot, the two Treochs, and Low Dalfram have also disappeared.

Muirfoot stood on the east side of the Ponesk Burn, near where it joins the Ayr.

Ashieburn stood on the east side of the burn of the same name.

The Waukmill is still a standing ruin, and local history is strangely silent anent its origin.

Wellwood House, now a picturesque ruin, was built on the site of an older house. In a book entitled "The Streams of Ayrshire," the author suggests that the old Wellwood House was built on the site of a still older one.

Townfoot stood a short distance west from Townhead.

Low Dalfram was the home of the Bauld Lapraik. Its site is marked by a monument erected to his memory.

The two Treochs stood on the south bank of the River Ayr, in close proximity to the old Iron Forge.

Though not in the Parish, I may say that North and South Lammerhaughs are both in ruins.

In the Garpel Water district, Bankhead, Megslea, Old Rigger', Heich Catchieburn, Midhouse, Coutburn, Cochrane Lodge, Glen Cottage, Tibbie Pagan's, Blue To'er, Garpel Ha', and Aikler House have all yielded to decay.

A hundred years ago Bankhead was a farmhouse, and stood where the workmen's houses now stands. It was farmed for many years by the grandfather of our esteemed townswoman, Mrs McMurren, Furnace Road.

Megslea stood where the Golf Links now are—a few trees mark the site.

Old Rigger' stood on the opposite side of the burn from the present Rigger'. It was a but-an-ben thatched cottage.

The Heich Catchieburn stood near the road to Auldhouseburn. It was a double row of thatched houses—twelve houses in each row. Some of the houses were occupied up till the middle of last century.

Midhouse stood at the west end of Midhouse Row (of course there was no row then). The dwelling-house was a storey and attic, with the milk-house and byre at one end, and the stable at the other, all in a line. The farm was for a long period leased by another of Mrs McMurren's ancestors, and Mrs McMurren possesses a photo of a black-faced ewe bred on Midhouse Farm. This ewe lived nineteen years, and produced forty-two lambs. She had four lambs at birth more than once. The photograph shows the ewe standing with four of her lambs. Midhouse had the unenviable reputation of being haunted—of which more anon.

The Coutburn Raw ruins are known to almost everyone in the village, and a source of inspiration to some of our local poets. A hundred years ago it was the hub of the village. With the Tar Works going and the Polquharnel Pits in full swing, it was a lively wee place. When the Auchinleck and Muirkirk railway was being made a large number of navvies lodged in the Coutburn. They were mostly Irishmen and Highlanders, and as the Pats and Macs were not exactly in love with each other, the Coutburn was the scene of a few Donnybrooks. (The ruins can be seen first right after Springhill).

Cochrane Lodge, as the name implies, belonged to the then lord of the manor. His family name was Cochrane, and he owned the Tar Works and supplied the British Navy with tar. The Lodge was occupied by one of the railway contractors during the railway's construction. It stood empty after that, and soon became a ruin, which can still be seen south of the Sanquhar Road past McAdam's Cairn.

The Blue To'er was a thatched but-and-ben cottage that stood on the west bank of the Garpel, near the railway.

Glen Cottage was the same type of house; the ruin is still visible.

Garpel Ha' stood on the side of the Garpel, a short distance above where the Slackshaw Burn joins it. It seems to have been a house of large dimensions, and was occupied a hundred years ago. Who it belonged to, and who lived in it seems to be wrapped in mystery. It apparently had some connection with the Cochrane Lodge, as a private road connected the two places. From its position its ruins must have been buried under the debris of the adjacent quarries.

Aikler House—Mr Fairbairn (our well-known antiquary), I understand, says that Aikler House stood on the slope of a knowe about a quarter of a mile south from Wellwood House, and that a solitary tree marks the spot, but local tradition has it that Aikler House stood on the site where the ruins of Knoweheid now stands, and from its position marked on an old map I have before me I am inclined to believe tradition is correct.

A few of the place names in the Parish have been altered from what they were a hundred years ago—Aird's Green was Ayr's Green, Ponesk Burn was Powness Burn, Tardoes was Tardoors, Ayrsmoss was Airdsmoss, Stonebriggs was Stanebriggs, and Cronberry was Cranberry.

How many ruins will the next 100 years bring? Perhaps the whole village!

THOMAS FLOYD

Woodside, 4th July, 1930

VITAL STATISTICS (1929)

Births 75. Lowest number recorded since 1855
 Marriages 31. Normal Year
 Deaths 38. Third lowest since 1855

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Old customs are gradually going. The Free Church bell, which has been rung for very many years at shop-closing hours, has now ceased to be rung in that connection, through it not being convenient for the new beadle to attend nightly. It is missed.

PIT FATALITY

Another of those tragic occurrences which from time to time seems to be inevitable in mining communities took place in Kames Pit late on Tuesday night (4th February) when two roadsmen—John McCulloch and W. Kay Girvan, were caught by a fall from the roof while carrying out their duties. A rescue party were soon at the scene of the accident, but when the men were unearthed it was found that McCulloch was dead, it being surmised that he was killed instantaneously. Girvan, who had miraculously escaped the full force of the fall, was found to have got away with bruises to his ankles and shoulder. Mr McCulloch was a widower, and leaves a grown-up family, with whom the deepest sympathy is felt. There was another fatality at Kames Pit on 6th August when John Dodds, Kames Row, lost his life in a fall at the coal face.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULT
 (Two Seats)

Henderson, John	689
Crosbie, Andrew	482
Love, Hugh	424
McKenzie, Norman	393

THE TALKIES

Talking pictures came to Muirkirk for the first time to Mr Walter Weir's Picture House (Temperance Hall). The first picture to be "heard" in Muirkirk was "The Trial of Mary Dugan."

RETURN OF THE CHERRIES

A public meeting was held on Burnside Park on 30th May for the purpose of considering the resurrection of the local junior football club. There was a large turnout, and, after discussion, and an expression of opinion, a resolution to form a club was put to the meeting and unanimously carried. A large and enthusiastic committee was appointed, and it is expected that the people of the village will, as in the good old days, rally round the committee and assist in the resuscitation of the once-famous Cherrypickers, who made history by sending out players to represent their country in all the Nationals. The Committee were not long in getting to business, for the hat was passed round, and a decent collection was the outcome. Several players have already given their promise to sign, and it is expected that a serviceable team will be secured.

<p>MUIRKIRK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY</p> <p>DIVIDEND</p> <p>3/- per £</p> <p>On Purchases</p>

LOCAL SNIPPETS

Burns property in Glasgow Road was offered for sale, but there were no takers.

From 21 applications for School cleaners the successful applicants were Widow Murdoch (Kames Row), and Widow Helen Parker (Main Street).

Skating is in full swing at Airdsmill pond (February).

Renewal of Licences for the Black Bottle (Mrs Lindsay) and the Eagle Tavern, Smallburn (Mrs Fulton) were granted.

In April the streets in Muirkirk had their names attached, which together with the door numbers, make for speedy identification.

The local Parish Council was wound up in preparation for the take-over by the Local Authority.

Mr Simpson, The Carrot, Eagelsham, took over Dalfram Farm from Mr Wm. Scott.

A start was made with the water extension to Torhill.

Andrew Steele won the Dux at Furnace Road School.

Muirkirk Golf Club lost 6-2 to Sorn Castle Golf Club in a Parish match at Auldhouseburn.

Kames No. 1 Pit, which had been closed for three months, was re-opened in August.

In September Muirkirk experienced one of the worst electrical storms in living memory. It was more on the spectacular side, and no damage was reported.

The two blocks of Council house at Glenbuck were let in November.

The Co-operative Dividend was 3/- per £.

COMMERCIAL CHANGES

ALEXANDER M. GARDNER took over the Chemist's Business of J. Mulholland, Main Street

Mrs HELEN ANDREW took over the Stationers and Confectionery business previously carried on by Mr and Mrs Calson (next door to the Police Office in Main Street).

JEAN McCOLL succeeded John Robertson (Fishmonger) in Main Street.

THOMAS HENDERSON, Cairnhill, Smallburn, was advertising lorries for hire.

A. CLEMENT, Smallburn, was advertising Kennox Coal for Sale.

O, merchant, in thine hour of e e e,
 If on this paper you should c c c,
 Take my advice and now get y y y,
 Go straight ahead and advert i i i.
 You'll find this plan the best to u u u,
 And one neglect cannot ex q q q.
 A silent business soon de k k k,
 Don't stick to those old-fashioned w a a a.

POETS ARE BORN, NOT PAID

Alang the trail through Wellwood's vale
 The Muse has mony woovers,
 An' rhymes are strung an' sangs are sung
 Tae birds an' bees an' floo'ers,
 But though the fare is often puir,
 An' leaves us nane the wiser,
 There's yae bit scribe 'mang a' the tribe
 Wha' reads the "Advertiser."

JAMES DONAGHY

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1930**BIRTHS**

- BIRRELL.—In U.S.A. on 14th January, to Mr and Mrs Robert Birrell; a son.
 KNOTT.—At Edinburgh on 9th June to Mr and Mrs Eric Knott; a son.
 THOMSON.—At New Cumnock on 24th August to Mr and Mrs Alex. Thomson; a daughter.
 HARKNESS.—In New Zealand to Mr and Mrs Daniel; Harkness; a daughter.
 BUCHANAN.—At Harkness Buildings on 17th November to Mr and Mrs Robert Buchanan; a daughter.
 McINTYRE.—In U.S.A. on 29th November, to Mr and Mrs Alex. McIntyre, a son.

MARRIAGES

- JOHN BARRIE to JEAN BRADFORD on 31st January.
 JAMES NISBET to ANNIE BERTRAM on 19th February.
 GEORGE LAWSON to HELEN DODDS on 14th June.
 ANDREW MILLAR (Albert Place) to MATILDA TELFER on 26th July in U.S.A.
 SYDNEY URQUHART to CHRISTINA McLEAN on 10th October.
 JOHN ROSS to JANE MUIR on 12th December

DEATHS

- MARSHALL.—At Glasgow on 3rd January, George Marshall, aged 38 years (of Garronhill House).
 McGLADRIE.—At 18 Springhill Terrace on 5th January, Margaret Gemmell, aged 79 years.
 STRAIN.—At Kilsyth on 1st January, Mary Logan (of Fleming Cottage, Muirkirk).
 SHAW SMITH.—At Bona Vista, Wellwood Street, on 15th January, Jeannie Boath.
 BLANE.—At 18 Park Terrace on 29th January, David Blane, aged twenty months.
 GILFILLAN.—At Ayr on 16th February, Jane Short, aged 42 years (of Kirkgreen).
 RENNIE.—At Smallburn on 22nd March, Robert Rennie, aged 78 years.
 URQUHART.—At Glasgow on 29th March, Jeannie Mitchell, aged 78 years.
 NICOL.—At Airdsmill Cottage on 12th April, Mary Nicol, aged 56 years.
 FOSTER.—At Stranraer on 4th May, William Foster (of Smallburn).
 SAMSON.—At Ayr on 9th May, Annie Nollan (of Smallburn).
 COLVILLE.—In U.S.A. on 9th May, Robert Colville (of Victoria Buildings).
 ANDERSON.—At Rowanbank Cottage, Glenbuck, on 4th June, Margaret Park, aged 67 years.
 McCARTNEY.—At Stableyard on 27th May, James McCartney, aged 84 years (late of Waulkmill).
 GEBBIE.—At Glasgow on 8th June Isabella Kevin, aged 33 years (of 26 Springhill Terrace).
 MURRAY.—At Bankhead on 6th June, Mary Graham, aged 81 years.
 McGUIGAN.—At Ayr on 13th June, Janet Bain, aged 28 years (of Glasgow Road).

- WILSON.—At Lanark on 18th July, Margaret Hay, aged 51 years (late of G.M.T. Co., Muirkirk).
 DEMPSTER.—At Blyth's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 5th September, Thomas Dempster, aged 65 years.
 BAIRD.—At Glasgow on 14th September, Jessie Millar.
 ROBB.—At 58 Main Street on 21st September, Duncan Robb, aged 72 years.
 WHYTE.—At 3 Railway Buildings, Smallburn, on 14th October, John Whyte (of Haystackhill).
 MURRAY.—At Wellwood Crescent on 9th November, Annie Gibson, aged 53 years.
 MURRAY.—At Bankhead on 13th November, David Murray, aged 82 years.
 ROWE.—At Derby on 12th November, Ezekiel Rowe (late of Muirkirk).
 ROBB.—At Pearson's Buildings on 21st November, William Robb, aged 16 years.
 CALDWELL.—At Glasgow on 30th November, Thomas Caldwell, aged 54 years (of The Bungalow, Smallburn).
 SHIELDS.—At Victoria Buildings on 30th November, Thomas Shields, aged 84 years.
 SOMERVILLE.—On 2nd December in U.S.A., John Somerville (late of Muirkirk).
 HAZLE.—At Wellwood Street on 13th December, Thomas Hazle, aged 65 years.
 MENZIES.—At 16 Park Terrace on 11th December, Phemie McKenzie, aged 33 years.
 McGINLEY.—At 41 Kames Row on 12th December, Agnes McGinley, aged 11 weeks.
 BARR.—At Middlefield Drive on 20th October, Mary Barr, aged 81 years.
 QUIGLEY.—As the result of an accident on 20th October, James Quigley, aged 8 years (of Garronhill).

FOOTBALL

There was still no junior football in the district in season 1929-30, and even the local schoolboys were finding it difficult to get the desired results. There had been some changes in the team and it was hoped for better things in the following season. The 1930 team was:—H. Hill; W. Samson, J. Bone; D. Cassagrande, A. Gibson, D. McCrone; H. Campbell, H. Murray, W. Anderson, J. O'Neil, J. Russell.

Glenbuck Cherrypicker's famous son, John Crosbie, who signed for Ayr United and then was transferred to Birmingham for a big fee, was fairly hitting the headlines with rave reports in the English Press. Now in his twelfth season at Birmingham, Crosbie is approaching his 400th game, and so far has a total of 67 goals.

In October representatives of Clyde visited Muirkirk with a view to signing Davy Hamilton, who has been playing with Coalburn. Davy was at his work at the time in Kames Pit, but the Clyde officials went underground and signed Davy on a provisional form.

At the same time Bob Shankly signed for Alloa, joining his brother, John, who plays for the Second Division Club

SNOOKER

A snooker pairs tournament at the Baird Institute attracted a large entry, and in the final Hector Walker and W. Rae beat T. McCulloch and J. Wilson.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

(1931)

OLD SPOOTS OF MUIRKIRK

By THOMAS FLOYD

Seventy years ago our village had a different aspect than at the present time. It contained a few houses of more than one storey, and a goodly number of thatched ones still adorned the Main Street. Sanitation was conspicuous by its absence. Gravitation water was non-existent, and the villagers had to rely on spouts and wells for their water supply.

As these old spouts and wells for many years played an important role in the economics of the village, and were associated and interwoven with the lives of dead and gone generations, it is fitting that they should be awarded "Honourable Mention" in the annals of the village, and, believing that they may interest some of the younger folk, I have ventured to name and describe them as they appeared to me when I was a boy.

Effie's Spout.—Commencing at the east end of the village, we had Effie's Spout. It was fixed in a low stone wall on the north side of the Douglas Road, close to the Kirk Burn. For many years it gave a regular and copious supply of good water, but to-day, owing to draining operations, it has practically stopped functioning. Tradition makes it the oldest spout in the village, and may have supplied Garron before Muirkirk was in existence. It is said to be the second best water in Scotland, but how and when it gained that distinction tradition has failed to enlighten us. It was supposed to derive its name from a certain Effie Johnstone, who lived in a thack house which stood where Mr McMichael's property now stands.

Coal Sanny's Spout.—The next was Coal Sanny's Spout. It was fixed in the west side of the Kirkburnhead road, a few yards above the entrance to the R.C. Chapel. It gave a limited supply of very good water, but was apt to fail in dry weather. "Coal Sanny" was said to be a hawker who sold rubbin' stanes, whitenin', and coal in small quantities to the villagers.

Heid Inns Spout.—The next was the Heid Inns Spout. It was fixed in a wall on the opposite side of the street from the Heid Inns (now the Masons Arms), hence its name. It gave a fair supply of good water, and was more dependable than Coal Sanny's. It also played an important part in the lives of the Main Street schoolboys. In the play-hour they used to run races from the School gate, up Geordie Lees's Brae, tig the spout, and back. If a runner failed or omitted to tig the spout, he was ruled out of the race.

Cuthbertson's Spout.—The next was Cuthbertson's Spout, which stood in front of John Cuthbertson's public house—lately the Douglas Arms, and now un-occupied. Its water was inferior to others, as it was brought by a pipe from the open Stile Burn. All the same, it was very popular with the school-boys, who, when hot and tired playing at "tig," "hi-spy," "ko yo," and other games, would gather round it and slocken their drouth with draughts of Adam's Wine "keppit" in their bonnet croons. They had to be careful and "sook" the water through their teeth to prevent an inquisitive "powheid or scur" from exploring their "innards."

Kirkhope's Spout.—The next was Kirkhope's Spout, which stood a yard or so out from the Glasgow Road entrance to what is now Mr Steele's Drapery House (Trotter's Shop). It gave a fair supply of very good water, and owing to its central position was most patronised. In the summer evenings it was usual to see nearly a score of villagers with their stoups stand-

ing around it waiting their turn to get their "gang o' water," as it was then called. When supplied with their "gang," which was generally contained in two wooden stoups—each stoup holding from three to four gallons—it was carried home and placed in a recess made for the purpose in the entry between the fore and trance doors. The recess extended under the end of the kitchen bed, a position which is far from the present-day ideas of hygiene. The Spout was also a happy hunting ground for the village gossips, where all the faults and failings of the villagers were discussed and criticised. It derived its name from Andrew Kirkhope, who had a butcher shop in the premises now occupied by Mr Steele, Draper.

There was another small spout halfway up the Glasgow Road, near where the E.U. Church now stands. As it seldom functioned, it wasn't of much account.

Another small one was at the top of The Stile, almost opposite the entrance to Park Cottage. It was a great favourite with the villagers, but after the advent of the New Cemetery, a fear got up about its contamination from that source. A sample of the water was then taken and analysed, when it was found to be of excellent quality. However, the spout has now practically dried up.

Kay's Spout.—The next was Kay's Spout. It was fixed in the wall near the steps leading to the Nurse's Home (Ian Mitchell's House). It gave a regular and good supply of water, and as it had to supply the Furnace Road and Smallburn, it was kept busy. It derived its name from Thomas Kay, the landlord of the Black Bull Hotel (now the Eglinton Arms Hotel).

There were also a number of wells throughout the village, such as the Christenin' Well, Meikle's Well, Gibson's Well, Mag Muir's Well, and MaCartney's Well. The Christenin' Well surely deserves special mention. It was a wee spring on the brae of the Kirk Burn, near the waterfall. It was so named because its water was always used in the font when a baptism took place in the Parish Church. The others named were all popular and useful in their day.

Meikle's Well was one of the principal sources of water, and was situated in the park behind Meikle's Raw. It was a genuine spring, and proved a good stand-by in times of drought. It derived its name from James Meikle, a noted blacksmith in the village. He was laird of Meikle's Raw, and had his smithy at the east end. However, before the Row was transformed into a two-storeyed block, it was converted into a dwelling house. Mag Muir's Well is still in existence in the garden, and then, as now, many patrons preferred to sample the wares as supplied in the premises on the street line.

Alas! The exigency of modern life created greater demands, and the old spouts that had for generations served the village faithfully and well had to go. Deemed too old, too slow, and out of date, they made their exit, and left behind them memories and recollections that make me often vainly wish I was a boy again, skelpin' up Geordie Lees's Brae, to tig the Spout, and slocken my drouth with draughts of Adam's Wine "keppit" in my bunnet croon.

The Ironworks side of the village had also a few spouts. There was one at the back of the square, near an opening between the houses. Another was at the foot of the Linkieburn, near to the burn. It was known as Logan's Spout. Another was on the side of the road, half-way between the Linkieburn and the Heigh Weighs. There was one in front of the Red Raw, and another at the entrance to the Stableyard.

The first-mentioned was Lade water, while the water for the others was conveyed by a tile drain from the Cairntable Cauldron—now known as the Boxed Well (later known as Ower the Watter Reservoir)—to a reservoir near the furnace bank.

VITAL STATISTICS (1930)

Births—114. An increase of 29 over last year and the highest since 1923. It is noticeable that of these there were 42 boys and 72 girls—almost two girls for every boy!

Marriages—33. Is it a coincidence that this is the highest since 1923, and is an increase of 2 over the previous year.

Deaths—46. An increase of 8 over last year

NEW BRIDGE AT WELLWOOD

For some time it has been known that the old Bridge between Marchhouse and Nether Wellwood, over the River Ayr, was to be replaced by a new structure, and we have just learned that on 2nd February operations will begin. It seems that the new bridge will be placed about thirty yards further down stream, and thus the road will be to a large extent straightened. The present switch-back bridge and acute bend on the road are not suited to the present-day fast-moving traffic. The new bridge was opened in November, and for some weeks previous traffic was diverted via the Avenue and Sorn Road.

PIT BATHS

A ballot was taken at Kames Pit as to the propriety of having baths installed at the pithead. The result was as follows:—

In Favour	454
Against	8
Spoiled Papers	7
<hr/>	
Total	469

Possible, 535. Poll, 87.6 per cent.

NEW POST OFFICE

Mr Thomas Rorrison, Bank, New Cumnock, was appointed Sub-Postmaster at Muirkirk in succession to the Misses Blackwood, who retired at the end of June. The premises to be occupied by the new Post Office are those presently in use by Mrs Mary Mitchell as an ironmongery shop in Main Street, Mrs Mitchell accommodating by removing next door.

THE CENSUS

	1931	1921
Parish Total	4358	4726
Made up of:		
Males	2304	2486
Females	2054	2240
No. in Various Wards:		
Landward	557	440
Ironworks	1288	1336
Village	2062	2237
Glenbuck	551	713

MINING

Although not a great was written about it in the "Advertiser" things were not good in mining circles. There was a lot of short time working, and good summer weather had not helped to encourage coal consumption. I note in the Issue of 1st October than 600 persons signed on the local Labour Exchange.

The new telephone exchange behind Victoria Buildings was brought into operation.

OF LOCAL INTEREST

Dr Archibald Taylor left Muirkirk, and was succeeded by Dr John Warren.

Owen McGarry (29) was killed by a fall of rock underground at Kames Colliery

A new Tully Coal Gasification Plant was installed at Muirkirk Gas Works.

John Brown's Stone at Priesthill was repaired and a new railing fixed on top of the parapet.

The licence for the Masons Arms Hotel was transferred from Mr Wm. C. Weir to Mrs Isabella Smith, the previous holder.

On 7th June the tremors of an earthquake were felt in Muirkirk.

The Blackwood sisters, Polly and Jessie, retired from the Post Office, which had been in the Blackwood family for 42 years.

An old landmark disappeared from our midst in Kirkburnhead Tollhouse, in which Nannie Spence used in the olden days to collect the road dues, and later lived in retirement. It was demolished in June.

In June 6.64 inches of rain fell in Muirkirk, and for the first six months of the year the total rainfall for Muirkirk was 26.05 inches

Mr John Menzies, Cleland, was granted the transfer of a public house licence for the premises at 77 Main Street, presently held by Mrs Jessie Alston.

Mr William Moffat, Dailly, appointed to replace Mr Charles Gibson at Muirkirk Station.

Mr Kerr Pringle, Irondale House, capped B.Sc. at Glasgow University.

In December the Pavilion re-opened under new management, and with a new heating system

The formation of the new combine, Baird & Dalmellington, Ltd., is to have its effect on Muirkirk. We hear that changes in the staff are impending.

The new refuse coup at the Royal George was opened.

Work on the new water track to Southside was commenced in December.

FIRE AT THE PAVILION

After extensive alterations the Pavilion opened up with "Talkies" on 15th June, when a large audience was favourable in its criticism of the new installation, which has a decidedly pleasing tone. There was also a good house on Tuesday night. But the management had a decided shock yesterday morning, for between five and six o'clock a workman noticed smoke issuing from the Pavilion. He at once raised the alarm, and on investigation it was found that the platform and screen were on fire. Happily, Mr Caldwell and a number of willing helpers—men going to their work, and neighbours—were able to extinguish the fire before it reached really serious dimensions. As it was, the new screen—valued at about £20—was completely burned, while the speaker was also ruined. The floor of the platform was also burned through in places, and the entire damage is estimated at between £60 and £70. The apparatus was not covered by insurance. The origin of the fire has not yet been determined. In a laudable attempt to keep the show going, Mr Caldwell procured a temporary screen and speaker, and the effort was successful in that the programme was submitted as on the two previous nights. Harry is arranging a first-class programme for the week-end. In the advertising columns Harry thanked the people of Muirkirk for their support and sympathy when his premises took fire "in such a mysterious and unexplained manner."

KATIE MUIR'S

The "Daily Record" of Tuesday, 29th September, contained a pen sketch of a local hostelry, from which we cull the following:—

While motoring in Ayrshire the other day I discovered at Muirkirk what must have been one of the quaintest hostelries in Scotland.

The dull, red-painted exterior is similar to hundreds of others in rural areas, but the interior was entirely different to any I have seen before. On opening the street door we turned sharply to the left, and found ourselves in a typical Scots cottage kitchen.

At our hand was the "sink" with a swan-necked water-tap. At the opposite end of the apartment stood a small sideboard loaded with ornaments. There was a grate in which a huge fire burned. In the centre of the floor stood a kitchen table, and round it, or leaning against the walls, were half-a-dozen broad-seated, broad-backed kitchen chairs.

At first we thought we had made a mistake, until we saw that a majority of the ornaments on the sideboard were bottles of liquor, and then there appeared a young man whom we later learned was the proprietor.

We were in "Kate Muir's," a tavern that has quenched thirst for two hundred years. Nearly two centuries ago she was called aloft, but ever since then a descendant of Katie's has held the licence, and so the place is still called "Katie Muir's."

Doubtless on reading the above some of our local historians will endeavour to clear the cobwebs from their memories, and will answer the statements with a "yea" or a "nay." In our day the establishment has been known as "Wee Kate's," and the historical part seems largely a story founded on fact

CHANGED DAYS (6th August Issue)

At a Public Meeting held recently it was decided that Glenbuck is to have no football team for season 1931-32

Yes, changed days! Once the home of sport and sportsmanship, with its annual professional sports, its champion quilters, its great footballers.

Now, alas, there are no annual games to bring the peds and the patrons from far and near, Glenbuck Brass Band to have an airing, for the sun to shine on the lemonade and other stalls by the roadside, and for Glenbuck and other folks to get "their wun oot."

Quoting! Not even a club in the birthplace and home of the erstwhile champion of Britain. Never even a quoit thrown now, and the quaiting green a wilderness.

In the good old days of amateurism Glenbuck could always field a first-class football team. The members had to play for their places, and, as compared with nowadays, they supplied their own boots, and paid their own fares for the away games. To-day the football pitch is deserted—to which not so long ago the young bloods, in their enthusiasm, repaired even before they had removed the pit grime from their faces. For years Glenbuck has been a nursery of budding international and other players—who had brains, guts, and the will to win their way in the world. To mention only two—they are Bob and Bill Blyth. Bob was one of the famous team that won the Ayrshire Cup three times in succession, and who later served Glasgow Rangers, Preston North End, Dundee, landing at Portsmouth as player-manager, and now he is mine host of the Talbot Hotel, and Chairman of Portsmouth F.C. Bob's younger brother, Billy, learned his football with the Cherypickers, graduated as a professional with Portsmouth, migrated to Preston, and finally became player-manager of Carlisle United—now Mr Blyth of the Bowling Green Hotel there.

No one can claim that Billy learned to bowl in Glenbuck, but from a Cumberland newspaper we learn that he skipped the winning rink in the Border City bowling tournament last month. So he must be "some" bowler, too. Football seems to run in the blood, like wooden legs. To-day three nephews of the Blyths—the Shankly's, are footing it—James with Southend, Bob with Alloa, and John with Greenock Morton. And there are others, of course—including McConnell, Muir & Co., of earlier days (Johnnie Crosbie is of a younger generation), who took advantage of the opportunities going, the shaping of whose lives lay in their own hands, and who with some effort on their part got there. Now it seems that, to reach comparative affluence, at least Football Avenue is closed to Glenbuck aspirants. In this hot-bed and nursery of athletic manhood pigeon-flying seems to be now the only sport. Professionalism has ruined football for the country clubs, and nap has precedence over other forms of health-giving recreation

MACADAM MEMORIAL CAIRN

(December 3rd Issue)

The local cairn-builders have again been busy, and the fruit of their labour can be seen, now completed, by the side of the old Sanquhar Road, where a cairn has been erected in memory of John Loudon Macadam. The cairn is ten feet high, and ten feet in diameter at the base, conical in shape, while the following inscription on the stone facing the roadway speaks for itself:—

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN LOUDON MACADAM,
THE FAMOUS ROADMAKER. 1756-1836.
THIS CAIRN MARKS THE SITE OF TAR KILNS, 1786-1827,
AND WAS BUILT WITH STONES FROM THEM IN 1931.

Coal distillation is a subject presently with us, and is an old subject, with which Muirkirk has a past—"Ayrshire is classic ground in the history of coal distillation, for it was at Muirkirk that the 9th Earl of Dundonald in 1780 ran his Tar Works."—Extract from "The Transactions of the Institution of Mining Engineers, 1930-31."

Macadam was a partner with Lord Dundonald in the venture here, which was the first of its kind in Scotland, if not in Britain. Previously tar had been distilled from wood. The coal tar was sent to London for the Navy, for tarring vessels, which were then made of wood. The tar Macadamising of roads is a comparatively recent idea—Macadam's principle, combined with tar.

And now it may be opportune to give a little history of the man. John Loudon Macadam, the younger son of the family, was born in Ayr on 21st September, 1756, and was educated at Maybole. When six years of age his father emigrated to America, and at the close of the revolutionary war young Macadam was an agent for the sale of prizes, realising a considerable fortune, the greater part of which, however, he lost. Returning to Scotland, he lived for a time near Moffat, and at Sauchie in Ayrshire, and in 1798 was appointed by the Government agent for victualling the Navy in the western ports of Great Britain, in consequence of which he removed to Falmouth. In 1815 he was appointed surveyor general of all the Bristol roads, when he was at length afforded the full opportunity of carrying his system into practical operation, and it was soon adopted throughout the whole kingdom.

In introducing an improvement of such extensive utility, Mr Macadam had expended from his own private resources several thousand pounds, which, in 1825, he proved before a Committee of the House of Commons, and received from Government, in two grants, the sum of £10,000, which was all the return he ever obtained. In 1834 he was offered knighthood, but declined it on account of his age, and it was conferred on his second son, Sir James Nicol Macadam, general surveyor

of the Metropolis turnpike roads. John Loudon Macadam died at Moffat, November 26, 1836, aged 80 years.

FOOTBALL (1930-31)

The resuscitated Glenbuck Cherrypickers opened their season with a rousing 3-2 victory over Cronberry Eglinton at Burnside Park. Team:—Bertram; Thomas, J. Brown, J. Tait, A. Brown, Menzies; Miller, A. Tait, Shankly, Murray, Bone.

That season the Scottish Junior Cup attracted an entry of 135 Clubs, but Cherries lost 1-0 to Cumnock in the 2nd Round.

The Cherries lost 1-0 to Auchinleck Talbot in the semi-final of the Cumnock Cup, and in the final of the Coynton Cup Cherrypickers fell heavily to Glenafton Athletic, 5-1

However, they made amends in the final of the Ayrshire Cup against Lugar, when at Kilmarnock they drew 3-3. In the replay at Cumnock Cherries won 1-0. Duffy was the scorer, but unfortunately the team was not given. It seems that this was the last game to be played by Glenbuck Cherrypickers, and is it not ironic that they were the first team to win the Ayrshire Cup in their first year, and now in their last season they have lifted the coveted trophy!

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

The Muirkirk School football team had a good season, serving up some delightful football. However they were beaten at the post by Cronberry, who won the League. The Muirkirk team that season was composed of:—H. Hill; R. Boland, T. Rowe; R. Samson, D. Casagrande, G. Ferguson; H. Campbell, W. Anderson, J. Moffat, H. Hamilton, J. McMorran.

BUSINESS NOTES

In January ROBERT McF. ADAMSON, Wellwood Street, offered lessons in Pianoforte.

Mrs SCOTT intimated she had taken over that shop in Main Street recently occupied by Mr James Selkirk for the supply of Confections, Cigarettes, Etc. Business as usual at Furnace Road.

ROBERT KIRKWOOD to-morrow (13th November) takes over the old established Grocery Business at 118 Main Street, lately owned by Mr George W. Millar, and for many years successfully carried on by the late Mr John Kerr.

ALEC DA' PRATO desires to announce that he has now opened those premises, lately known as the Douglas Arms, in Main Street, for the sale of Confections, Cigarettes, Ice Cream, Etc., and as a Fish & Chip Restaurant. It was named the Welcome Cafe and was situated in the recessed building across from Main Street School.

LOCAL STATISTICS 1931

BIRTHS

DAVIDSON.—In Australia on 2nd December, 1930, to Mr and Mrs Thomas Davidson; a daughter

BLAIKIE.—At Oban on 27th February, to Mr and Mrs D. Blaikie; a daughter.

ROSS.—At Cumnock on 1st March to Mr and Mrs James Ross; a son.

BOYES.—At Blackridge on 29th September to Mr and Mrs Thos. Boyes; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

JOHN MORRISON to MARGT CLEMIE on 26th Dec, 1930.

HENRY WARDROP to MARGARET MUIR on 31st Jan.

GEORGE HIBBERD, Ph.D., A.R.T.C., to MARION SAMSON on 26th August

JOHN McVEY to GRACE THOMSON on 14th October.

DUNCAN ROSS to Isabella Sloan on 16th October.

ARCHIBALD WEIR to HELEN WILSON on 30th October.

DEATHS

KIRKLAND.—At 1 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 28th December, 1930, Robert Kirkland, aged 44 years.

PRINGLE.—At Irondale House on 29th December, 1930, Agnes McLellan.

DRYLIE.—At Fauldhouse on 2nd January, John Drylie, aged 78 years.

BRADFORD.—At Wellwood Street on 24th January, Rachel Manley, aged 58 years.

SHARP.—At Furnace Road on 1st February, Janet Sharp, aged 86 years.

YOUNG.—At Glespin on 2nd February, James Young, aged 58 years.

HAMILTON.—At Ayr View, Muirkirk, on 6th February, Marion Campbell, aged 76 years.

McGARRY.—Accidentally killed in Kames Pit on 2nd February, Owen McGarry, aged 27 years.

MORAN.—At Glasgow on 6th March, Mary Moran, aged 28 years.

BRADFORD.—At 19 Park Terrace on 16th March, Sarah Bradford, aged 79 years.

LOCHHEAD.—At 7 Kirkgreen on 28th March, James Lochhead, aged 65 years.

McCARTNEY.—At 8 Old Terrace on 28th March, James McCartney, aged 64 years.

ROSS.—At Cunningham Cottage on 6th April, John Ross, aged 80 years.

MURDOCH.—At 69 Main Street on 12th April, Andrew Murdoch, aged 57 years.

McBRIDE.—At 50 Linkiburn on 9th May, James McBride, aged 45 years.

SAMSON.—At Glasgow on 16th May, Janet Duke, aged 30 years.

GRAHAM.—At Kilmarnock on 22nd May, James Blackwood, aged 3 years.

McCUTCHEON.—As the result of an accident at Garpel Water on 20th July, Wee Cathie, aged 6 years

CLARK.—At 17 Wellwood Avenue on 22nd August, Nettie Clark, aged 20 years.

ANGUS.—At Masonic Hall on 23rd August, William Angus, aged 62 years.

HEGGIE.—At 96 Smallburn on 19th September, William Heggie, aged 3 years.

FLOYD.—At Wee Torhill on 14th October, Hannah Floyd.

MACDONALD.—On 7th November, Alexander Macdonald.

EASTON.—At Bankhead on 17th November, Adam Easton, aged 65 years.

BEGG.—In U.S.A. on 23rd November, Adam Begg (late of Main Street).

HODGE.—At Furnace Road on 5th December, Janet Ross.

DORNAN.—At 12 Wellwood Avenue on 13th December, William Dornan, aged 79 years.

BLACKWOOD.—At Main Street on 21st December, William Blackwood (Chemist).

CASAGRANDA.—At Garronhill on 17th December, Mary Beck, aged 55 years.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

(1932)

HEATHER ALE

This is an extract from "The Edinburgh Magazine," published in 1761, and makes some interesting reading now about Muirkirk:—

The parish tho' mountainous is exceeding good for pasturage, affording great store of sheep, which is the chief commodity the inhabitants depend on; there are storemasters here whose rooms contain more than ninety scores of old sheep, besides lambs. They have also a great deal of black cattle; some of them will have above thirty milk cows, besides others which they keep in proportion; and each of them as much tallage (a few rooms (farms) excepted) as affords them as much corn and bear, as mostly maintains their families, except it be in time of dearth. The women here are exceeding fine dairymaids, and make a good deal of butter and cheese; the former they mostly use for mixing tar, for the laying of their sheep. I have seen cheeses four stone troy in weight, made of ewe milk there, which they sell at a great price. They scarcely at any time sell any of their cheeses below four shillings per stone at the first hand, and I never eat any in my life more palatable than what this parish afford. Few places can equal them for breeding of horses, of which they have great score. Some of the inhabitants will have twenty, and scarce any one has below six. They have plenty of moss, which they cut into peats, and dry them in summer-time for fuel. They have also coal and limestone in great plenty in every room or mailing; so that each family, if they please, may dig and find coal and limestone below their house floors. There is also plenty of free stone there. The thing they mostly want is wood, which is very scarce here. The muirs afford great store of wild fowl such as the heath-cock and heath-hen, partridges, green and grey plover, and a bird with a long beak called a whaap, duck and drake, and hares in great plenty, which makes it a fine place for game in the summer. The chief mountain in the shire is here, and takes its rise about 24 miles from the sea. This mountain is of great height, has two tops, and goes under the name of Cairntable. It is seen a great way off, and has a trough cut out of a rock, 12 feet long, 6 feet broad, and 8 feet deep, which always stands almost full of pure spring water, near the top of the mountain; of which several fabulous stories are told, such as, that the Picts made use of this cistern for steeping heather, of which they made a delicious drink.

There is not a more delightful place in the summer, nor a finer air in all Scotland than here, nor a more industrious frugal people than the inhabitants; there is none in the nation that will take a more hearty bottle when occasions offers than they. There are few or no poor people here, at the most not above three at a time, whom they plentifully maintain by a fund they annually raise; and there is scarce any parish whatever that can say they ever saw any of the inhabitants of the Muir Kirk of Kyle begging; I dare say there is none.

It is interesting to compare these times with the present. Most people will agree that the liking for "the hearty bottle" has descended with the generations—that is, when it can be got.

With regard to the trough cut out of the rock on "Cairntable," there has been considerable speculation anent its site. Evidently its location has been lost for some generations, but two years ago the vat was discovered and opened up.

UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' HOWFF

(11th August Issue)

A new use has been found for the old sawmill building at Airdsmill. Through the good offices of Mr Dugald Baird and Rev. John Henderson, the occupancy of the building has been granted free of charge for the purpose of an Unemployed Workers' Club, from Mr Robert L. Angus, on behalf of Messrs Baird & Dalmellington.

IRONWORKS INSTITUTE

The installation of a new heating system in the Ironworks Institute was inaugurated last week (October) and in future the establishment will be lit by petrol gas instead of electricity. The new lamps seem to be even more powerful than electric light, are said to be very satisfactory, with low consumption of petrol, and, with the Institute now independent as far as light is concerned, the former lighting restrictions are now a thing of the past.

QUOITING

The game of quoits was very popular in the district at this time and hardly a week went past without some challenge match taking place. The Southside Club boasted a membership forty.

Muirkirk's champion quoter, John Kilpatrick, now attached to the St. Rolox Club, won the Scottish Championship when he defeated J. Henderson, Larkhall, in the final by 61 shots to 51. The match was played at Parkhead. This was the third time Kilpatrick had won the Championship and equals the record of three held by W. Anderson, Larkhall.

LAPRAIK RELICS

For some considerable time the Lapraik Burns Club have been in possession of a number of relics, mostly belonging to John Lapraik, farmer in Dalfram, who, as most of our readers are aware, was also a poet, as well as a friend and correspondent of Robert Burns. Having no premises in which to house these relics satisfactorily, through the good offices of Mr Arch Fairbairn, Wellwood, these have now been accepted by the Committee of the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock, on loan, so that they will now be in safe keeping. The relics comprise—John Lapraik's folding writing desk, kitchen arm-chair, two dining-room chairs, a small table, old willow pattern jug, toddy ladle, porridge stick, book bearing Lapraik's signature and that of his spouse, two miniatures of Lapraik's brothers, John Lapraik's Family Bible with the record of the births of the members of his family, beginning 1765, while there is also included a small look-glass which belonged to Tibbie Pagan, joint authoress of "Ca' the Yowes tae the Knowes." Amongst the articles recently donated to the Dick Institute Museum is a silver decoration from the harness worn by mules in Naples on State occasions, gifted by Mrs Broun Lindsay, also a saddle quern (an ancient hand-mill for grinding corn) from Mr Arch Fairbairn, which was found by him at the excavation of a pre-historic and mediaeval site near Blackside, Muirkirk. Through the kindness of Mr William Brown, builder, it is hoped to transfer the relics to Kilmarnock one of these days.

THE KAMES FARM SENSATION

(16th June Issue)

A court case which lasted three full days took up almost the whole of this issue. The case was heard at Ayr Sheriff Court, when Mary Black Lee or Foster, Kames Farm, Muirkirk, was charged with forgery and the assault of John Halliday Foster at Kames Farm. It took the jury twenty minutes to find Mrs Foster guilty of forgery, and "not proven" to the charge of assault. She was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment. She later appealed but was unsuccessful.

VITAL STATISTICS (1931)

Births—80 A decrease of 34 from last year, and the second lowest total since 1855.

Marriages—32. Compared with 33 the previous year.

Deaths—38. Eight fewer than last year

FUNERAL

One of the most impressive ceremonies ever performed in our local Cemetery was carried out on 13th January, when the remains of the late Mr William Smith, Glasgow Road, were laid to rest. The Parish Silver Band attended to pay their last respects to a keen and enthusiastic bandsman, and preceded the cortege playing "The Dead March in Saul." Arriving at the Cemetery, six of the bandsmen acted as pall-bearers, the while the remainder played appropriate hymns at the graveside.

ELECTED MAYOR

There seems to be no keeping down of these Muirkirk natives—that is after they have left their native heath. The latest that we hear of as making a name for himself is Mr Matthew Clark. Matt. served his apprenticeship to the grocery trade with Mr William Murdoch, in premises now occupied by Mr James Brown, fruiterer, and was later employed by the Co-operative Society in the Main Street premises. Emigrating to New South Wales as a young man, he started on his own account and made good. Matt. for six years was an Alderman of the municipality of Wickham, a district of Newcastle, N.S.W., and in December last was elected Mayor.

GRASSHILL PIT (19th May Issue)

After a spell of unsteady work Grasshill Colliery was closed down at the week-end. The men "drew their graith" on Saturday morning, while the ponies were brought to the surface on Monday. Some of the underground plant is also being removed. The closing of the Colliery is a bad blow to Glenbuck, as practically the whole population was dependent on Grasshill for a livelihood. In the two pits which comprised the Colliery some 200 men were employed, including some forty to fifty from Muirkirk. The Glenbuck Co-operative Society, who had their arrangements made and a special train booked for their annual children's gala day at Ayr on Saturday, 11th June, have decided to abandon the trip, and expect to hold the event locally, at the Birkcleugh Glen, instead. Although there is some hope of the Colliery re-opening, it is estimated that some three or four months will elapse before a resumption of work may be anticipated. It is indeed a bad blow, and with employment so scarce throughout the country probably very few of the men will be absorbed elsewhere.

From the 27th October Issue:

Grasshill Colliery has been re-opened after having been closed for over five months. A large staff of repairers have been busy for several days getting the roads in order, and yesterday the actual resumption of work was made. The majority of the men formerly employed were re-started, and it is expected that the full complement will be employed when all necessary repairs have been effected. The cheering news was spread at the week-end, and was received with thankfulness throughout the district. The re-opening of the two pits means a lot to the village, which has been hard hit for more than a year, and pessimism for the winter months has now changed to optimism. Formerly about 200 workers were employed in the Colliery, and this included a goodly number of Muirkirk Miners. It is to be hoped that Glenbuck will now enjoy a prosperous spell.

In July the monument at Tibbie's Brig was erected.

SEEN AND HEARD

Mr John Young, J.P., Springhill, 24 years with Messrs William Baird & Co at Muirkirk, was transferred to Lugar.

John Murdoch, late of Glenbuck Cherrypickers, signed for Clyde F.C.

Mrs Jane Muir, Glenbuck's oldest resident died at the age of 94 years. She was formerly Postmistress at Glenbuck for a period of thirty years, being born and bred in the village.

Major Baird, J.P., Kaimshill, for seventeen years manager of William Baird & Co.'s Ironworks and Collieries in Muirkirk, retired in March.

Work was still going on in connection with the laying of water to Southside.

The Black Bottle Tavern at Kirkgreen changed its name to the Kyle Inn.

Effie's Spoot near Madeleine Place was filled in by working repairing the road.

Mr Walter Weir retired as manager at Muirkirk Labour Exchange. He had held the post for 11 years. The Exchange was transferred to Furnace Road to premises formerly occupied by Mrs Allan Loggie as a confectionery shop. Mr S. C. Matthews, Newmilns, was appointed in his place.

Douglas Crosbie was Dux of Muirkirk School in 1932.

Building operations in connection with the baths at Kames Pithead were commenced in October.

A bench of five retorts on the old principles were installed at the Gas Works.

At Muirkirk Constabulary Sergeant Thain, who has been five years at Muirkirk, was replaced by Sergeant Sharp.

NOT PROVEN

There was another court case at Ayr with a Muirkirk connection when William Coutts Weir, picture house proprietor, was charged with reckless driving while under the influence of drink, and causing the death of young lad, Peter Alexander, near Glenbuck Station. The case was found not proven.

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Junior football was a big miss in the district, but at least in the summer months there was plenty of entertainment to be had following the fortunes of Muirkirk Schoolboys, who served up some attractive football. It was nothing unusual for up to 1,000 supporters to turn up at Victory Park. The boys played well in 1932, but were just pipped for the League by Lugar. A typical team that season was composed of:—J. Loggie; R. Boland, T. Rowe; J. Hodge, R. Samson, J. Chapman; G. Ferguson, H. Casagrande, W. Boland, J. Bell, G. Bradford.

BUSINESS CHANGES

Miss NANCE WILSON intimated she would be taking over the business presently carried on by Misses McLuckie at Main Street (Ladies' Hairdressing).

Miss M. R. WALLACE opened a Ladies' Hairdressing and Face & Scalp Massage business at Main Street

JOHN MURRAY advertised a Upholstery and Cabin-maker business at Glasgow Road

The Temperance Hall was built in 1881

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1932**BIRTHS**

- MILLAR.—In U.S.A. on 1st February to Mr and Mrs Andrew Millar; a daughter
- NISBET.—At 3 Council Buildings, Glenbuck, on 17th February, to Mr and Mrs James Nisbet; a son.
- BUCHANAN.—At 127 Main Street on 16th April to Mr and Mrs Robert Buchanan; a daughter.
- ROSS.—At 12 Wellwood Street on 12th June to Mr and Mrs John Ross; a daughter.
- CLARK.—At Crossflatt on 27th July to Mr and Mrs John Clark; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

- CYRIL BLOSS to NICHOLAS CHISHOLM on 26th March.
- ANDREW MILLAR to JESSIE MELVILLE on 22nd April.
- ROBERT ADAIR to ISABELLA NIMMO on 20th September.
- JAMES GORDON to CISSIE MACADAM on 14th September.
- JOHN SMITH to MARY ROWE on 7th December.

DEATHS

- GARDINER.—At Kilmarnock on 1st January, James Gardiner, aged three years (of The Hall, Muirkirk).
- DEMPSTER.—At Lilybank, Smallburn, on 15th January, John Dempster, aged 60 years.
- McKAY.—At 12 Garronhill on 26th January, Mary McBride, aged 80 years.
- WILLIAMSON.—At 13 Victoria Buildings on 2nd February, Janet Williamson, aged 74 years.
- GIRDWOOD.—At 46 Main Street on 13th February, Elizabeth Girdwood, aged 70 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At 20 Bridge Street on 24th February, Helen Donaldson, aged 77 years.
- McCULLOCH.—At West Kilbride on 16th March, Sarah McCulloch, aged 5 years.
- STEELE.—At Glasgow on 11th April, Agnes Kerr, aged 51 years.
- DUNBAR.—At The Old Hall, Muirkirk, on 19th April, James Dunbar, aged 84 years.
- FINDLAY.—At Blackwood's Buildings on 14th April, Andrew Findlay, aged 80 years.
- ALEXANDER.—At Glasgow on 21st April, Peter Alexander, aged 18 years (of Blyth's Buildings, Glenbuck).
- BRADFORD.—At 17 Park Terrace on 27th April, Grace McIntosh, aged 76 years.
- KILPATRICK.—At Greenock on 20th April, Willie Kilpatrick, aged 14 years.
- GIBSON.—At Ronaldo Place on 8th May, Margaret Burnside, aged 80 years.
- GREENWOOD.—At 14 Wellwood Avenue on 26th June, Margaret Law, aged 74 years.
- DICKSON.—At Wellwood Street on 7th July, James Dickson (tailor).

- HENDRY.—At Glasgow on 23rd July, Jessie Samson, aged 31 years (of Kirkgreen).
- BONE.—At 18 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 29th July, David Bone, aged 41 years.
- EASTON.—At Bishopbriggs on 8th August, Janet Smith (late of Bankhead).
- SEYMORE.—At Ayr on 30th August, John Seymour, aged 73 years (late of Midhouse Terrace).
- GIBSON.—At Parishholm on 8th September, Alexander Gibson, aged 65 years.
- ROSS.—At 69 Main Street on 14th September, Christina Davidson, aged 85 years.
- CLEMENT.—At Naperston Cottage, Muirkirk, on 21st September, Andrew Clement (Contractor), aged 89 years.
- GOLDIE.—At Glasgow on 21st September, James Alston, aged 24 years (of Sornlea, Main Street).
- GORDON.—At the Schoolhouse on 21st September, Sophia Gordon, aged 81 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At Co-operative Buildings, Glenbuck, on 23rd September, Joseph Davidson, aged 67 years.
- FERGUSON.—At Smallburn on 24th September, Elizabeth McDonald, aged 52 years.
- MARTIN.—At 97 Main Street on 6th October, Margaret Gibson, aged 79 years.
- MURRAY.—At Stirling on 18th October, George Murray, aged 54 years.
- EASTON.—At Kilmarnock on 22nd October, result of an accident, Adam Easton, aged 30 years (of Bankhead).
- JACK.—At Glespin on 28th October, William Jack (under-manager, Kennox Colliery).
- HIGGINS.—At 42 Springhill Terrace on 4th November, Susan Steven, aged 47 years.
- BAIRD.—At Cairn House, Main Street, on 18th November, Elizabeth Rennie, aged 41 years.
- ROSS.—At Hunter's Buildings on 10th December, William Ross, aged 70 years.
- FERGUSON.—At Camwath on 23rd December, Margaret Johnston.
- MACINTYRE.—In U.S.A. on 23rd December, Alexander MacIntyre (of Heathfield, Muirkirk).

MARGARET MITCHELL

Opened a Ladies' Hairdress Salon at
127 Main Street, Muirkirk

DAVIDSON, DRAPER, DOUGLAS

took over the premises in Main Street, recently occupied by
Mrs Scott.

MOLLY BRADFORD

9 Park Terrace, Muirkirk
offered a Home Service for Ladies' Hairdressing

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

(1933)

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

With Muirkirk and district being starved of junior football for some time, it was no surprise that the local community got behind the Muirkirk Higher Grade football team who made such an impact in Ayrshire that season. Their efforts must stand beside that of the famous Glenbuck Cherrypickers and Scotland's own Wembley Wizards.

MUIRKIRK WIN CUP

Furnace Road H.G. School had a terrific run in the Bute Cup competition. In the first round they drew with Bank 2-2, winning the replay 3-1. In the second round they were no match for Auchinleck, trouncing them 7-0. Next for the chop was Cumnock in the semi-final, who went down 6-1 to the Muirkirk maestros.

And so Muirkirk were set to meet New Cumnock in the final to be played at Lugar. The village went daft that Friday evening. Everybody seemed anxious to get to Lugar—wee lassies, big lassies, wee boys, big boys, and old boys—and a special train, several special buses, private cars, motor cycles, push cycles, and "Shanks's Naigie" all played their part in conveying a thousand Muirkirk enthusiasts to the venue of the game. Verdant Rosebank Park has never accommodated a more enthusiastic crowd, or been the scene of a more keenly contested game, and the convincing victory of the Muirkirk boys sent their supporters into the seventh heaven of delight.

It was all Muirkirk in the first half, although they only had a Boland goal to show for it at half time. It was noticeable that the Muirkirk goalie did not have a single shot to deal with during the half.

It was a different story in the second period, with Muirkirk starting promisingly, but New Cumnock had a spell of aggressive pressure, before the Higher Grade boys turned on the style, a hat-trick from Boland and a single goal by Wilson capped a memorable performance, and the cup was on its way to Muirkirk.

From "Notes on the Game" we quote:

The collection taken at the game amounted to £14.

About 700 spectators travelled with the special train, and it is said that there never was such a scene at Cronberry Station as that when the passengers disembarked. The road from Cronberry to Lugar also presented an animated appearance.

There must have been about 2,000 spectators at the game.

The cross-bars were lowered for the game.

The boys comported themselves with credit, and displayed no nervousness before the large crowd.

While every member of the local team pulled his weight, Wilson, Boland, Brown, Wallace and Walker excelled themselves.

One Lugar enthusiast remarked that Muirkirk's little lot should be playing for the Junior Cup instead of the Boys' Cup.

The cup and watches have been displayed for the past few days in the window of Mr Shanks, jeweller, and we learn that the boys are to be entertained at a social in the near future, when the watches will be presented.

The Muirkirk team was:—J. Loggie; J. Walker, G. Bradford; J. Hodge, T. Hazle, T. Wallace; T. Dempster, C. Wilson, W. Boland, T. Brown, W. Hogg.

ANOTHER CUP FOR MUIRKIRK
CHAMPIONS OF THE LEAGUE TOURNEY

Above was the headline in the issue of 29th June, when Muirkirk Higher Grade football team established a record which probably will never be equalled, in that they went through the entire League programme without losing a game.

The games and scores were as follows:—

Skares 2, Muirkirk 9	Muirkirk 9, Skares 0
Muirkirk 6, Auchinleck 1	Auchinleck 2, Muirkirk 3
Muirkirk 6, Lugar 1.	Lugar 2, Muirkirk 2
Cumnock 1, Muirkirk 2	Muirkirk 4, Cumnock 0
Muirkirk 18, Darnconner 0	Darnconner 0, M'kirk 10
Cronberry 2, Muirkirk 3	Muirkirk 7, Cronberry 1
Muirkirk 3, New Cumnock 2	New C'k 2, Muirkirk 2
Muirkirk 1, Bank 1	Muirkirk 6, Mauchline 0
Mauchline 1, Muirkirk 4	

And this set up a real clincher for the final game against Bank at Connel Park, New Cumnock. Muirkirk needed only one point from the game to take the League title.

A special train was run, and 625 supporters made the journey by rail, while numerous others travelled by road. There was a huge crowd of spectators all told, and the collection at half-time amounted to well over £16. Appropriately enough, the teams engaged were the two mostly concerned in the championship. Bank, two points behind, needed a victory over Muirkirk to tie, hence the extraordinary interest in the game.

The game opened evenly enough, and fast end-to-end play kept the spectators on their toes. Well on in the half Bank opened the scoring from a goalmouth scrimmage. Muirkirk retaliated well and just before the interval Dempster levelled the score. 1-1. In the second half Muirkirk had the Bank team hemmed in their own half for most of the time, and a stirring game ended in a draw, with the Championship going to Muirkirk.

Muirkirk team:—W. Dodds; J. Walker, T. Brown; J. Hodge, T. Hazel, T. Wallace; T. Dempster, C. Wilson, W. Boland, J. Loggie, W. Hogg.

The boys were given a great reception on their return with the Cup, and, led by the Southside Pipe Band, who also travelled to New Cumnock for the match, motored slowly round the town amidst hearty cheering.

A praise-worthy performance of our local schoolboy footballers is their going through the entire season without losing a game in their Cup, League and friendly engagements (and there were quite a few of these). It will probably be a long time ere such again happens.

The exploits of the School team did a lot to lift the gloom which was prevalent in the village through short-time working at the pits and the high unemployment in the district. It also in its own way, by reviving local interest in football, did a lot to ensure the resuscitation of Junior football in Muirkirk in the coming years.

The following is the complete

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Muirkirk	18	14	4	0	96	19	32
Bank	18	13	4	1	69	13	30
N/Cumnock	18	14	2	2	77	25	30
Cumnock	18	11	1	6	57	31	23
Lugar	18	8	4	6	54	43	20
Mauchline	18	5	1	12	43	50	11
Skares	18	3	1	14	15	65	7
Darnconner	18	0	0	18	11	118	0

STILL ANOTHER CUP FOR MUIRKIRK

A cup competition sponsored by Cumnock & Mauchline Junior F.A. was competed for by the district schools, and yet again Muirkirk proved their worth. They beat Cronberry 5-1 in the first round, and accounted for Lugar in the semi-final 2-1. This set up a final tie with Drongan, and the files reported the game thus:—

Records are made to be broken, but it looks a safe wager it will be a long time before the record set up by Muirkirk H.G. School team this year will be broken. Unbeaten in Bute Cup and League competitions, the local team went one better on Friday night (25th August) at Auchinleck, when in the final tie of the Cumnock and Mauchline J.F.A. Cup competition they won to the tune of eight goals to one, to secure the handsome Cup once fought for by the Juniors. In short—three competitions, three cups. It turned out to be a rather one-sided affair in the first half with Muirkirk leading 7-1 at the interval. Drongan resisted better in the second half, but another goal by Boland finished the scoring.

The Muirkirk team was:—W. Dodds; J. Walker, G. Bradford; J. Hodge (Capt.), T. Hazle, T. Wallace; J. Loggie, C. Wilson, W. Boland, T. Brown, W. Hogg.

Thus the 1933 season was brought to a close, and probably for many years to come it will be referred to with pride and joy as a record year for Muirkirk H.G. School team.

A photograph of Willie Boland, described as the Muirkirk H.G. team's James McGrory, appeared in the "Daily Record." Willie's 82 goals in 32 games deserve a creditable mention.

GRASSHILL PIT CLOSED—AGAIN

Owing to lack of orders, Grasshill Colliery is again being closed down for an indefinite period. The majority of the 200 workers employed withdrew their "graith" on Friday (14th April), with about 20 men kept on to make the necessary preparations for the closing down of the Colliery. Work was resumed only in October last after a stoppage lasting over five months, and probably this period will again elapse before a re-opening may be anticipated.

And from the 11th May Issue:—

Serious Outlook at Glenbuck

It now seems definite that Grasshill Pits are to be closed for good. All paraphernalia has been cleared out of No. 1 Pit, and brought to the surface, and there is now a staff of men in No. 2 Pit drawing pumps, girders, &c., and bringing everything to the surface except the large quantity of coal that is believed to be lying there. The decision of the owners to close down is a serious blow to the little village that has left a bright spot in history. It has cast quite a gloom over the village, as there is no other work in the place for the men thrown out of employment.

SOUTHSIDE IMPROVEMENTS (August)

We learn that an agreement has been reached between Messrs Baird & Dalmellington, Ltd., and Ayrshire County Council with regard to improvements to houses on the Southside. These are:—Each house is to have water introduced by placing a sink in the kitchen; the existing dry closets are to be replaced by water closets, the ashpits being done away with, and additional water closets made so as to provide one water closet for each house; in some cases pavements will be constructed in front of the houses. As regards the single-apartments on the west side of Linkieburn and two at Stableyard, owing to the difficulty and impracticability of adapting them to meet requirements, it is suggested that they be abandoned. Other necessary repairs are to be carried through to the satisfaction of the County Council.

SEEN AND HEARD

About twenty workers employed at the foundry and workshops of Messrs Baird & Dalmellington, Ltd., were paid off, and it is expected that some shops may be closed permanently.

As the result of being knocked down by a train at Palmer's Crossing, Grace Marshall, aged 6 years, died later in Yorkhill Hospital.

In July 5-year-old Mary Murray was knocked down by a horse-drawn van of the Co-operative Society, but later died in Yorkhill Hospital.

The Dux Medallist at Muirkirk School was Elizabeth McIntosh.

Caretaker's House at Masonic Hall was converted into a lesser hall and kitchen and toilets added. The caretaker will be accommodated in an apartment downstairs.

Mr Thomas Picken, caretaker at the Ironworks Institute was killed in a road accident near Airdsmill.

Death was announced at the Old Post Office of Miss Polly Blackwood, who resigned a couple of years ago as Sub-Postmistress.

Mr W. C. Muir promoted Clydesdale Bank Agent at Muirkirk in place of Mr John Henderson.

The new S.M.T. bus garage at Smallburn was built in November.

Mr James McCall, Furnace Road, was killed in an accident at Kames Colliery.

The new Pithead Baths at Kames Colliery were opened in September.

EXTRACT FROM "THE MAKING OF SCOTLAND"

The following should never fade from the memory of Scotsmen. It was a declaration made at a Scottish Parliament at Arbroath in 1319.

"While there exist a hundred of us we will never submit to England. We fight not for glory, wealth, or honour, but for that liberty which no virtuous man shall survive."

The above took place after King Robert the Bruce had been thrice excommunicated by Pope John because he (the Pope) got no reply to his letters sent to Bruce, including an order from the Pope to meet him along with the Scottish Bishops at Avignon. Bruce's reason for this inattention was that the Pope addressed him as Governor of Scotland instead of King of Scotland.

BUSINESS CENTENARY (1st June)

This month marks the centenary of the grocery business presently carried on by Miss Janet Johnstone at Furnace Road. The business was founded at Smallburn in the year 1833 by Mrs Archibald Wallace, whose husband was local manager of the Muirkirk Estate (then owned by Lord Henry Bentinck), and after three years was transferred to the present premises in Furnace Road. Mrs Wallace died in 1871, when the business was taken over by her daughter, Mrs Johnstone (perhaps better known locally as Jess Wallace), and eventually by the present owner—a grand-daughter of Mrs Johnstone, and thus a great grand-daughter of the founder of the business.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1932

Births—98 (this included three sets of twins), as against 80 last year, and an unusual feature of the year was that none were registered during the month of September.

Marriages—25, compared with 32 last year.

Deaths—44, six more than last year.

THE LATE THOMAS FLOYD

It is with deep regret we have this week (27th July) to chronicle the death of one who has from time to time since the commencement of the "Advertiser" contributed local rhymes and bits of local history for the amusement and information of our readers—Mr Thomas Floyd, Woodside, for as well as being a valued contributor, he was a personal friend. Tom was pottering about in his garden last Friday, and he collapsed suddenly on Saturday morning. Mr Floyd was a railway engine-driver, and retired from active service about five years ago. He was a keen student of Nature and the sciences—astronomy, geology, botany, &c., and was a rhymer of no mean order. His volume of poems—"Cairntable Rhymes," reached its second edition. Being of a backward and blate disposition, he was seldom seen in public; he "lived" in the country, and the meanest of flowers claimed his admiration. To Mrs Floyd and family we extend sincere sympathy, and we shall miss his pawky and often humorous efforts in these columns. To use his own word, he has got "the ca'," and it may be appropriate that we reprint a poem he wrote immediately after his retirement. The poem was an epistle to his friend, Mr David Millar, Ayr:—



Man, Davie, I was prood indeed
When I received your welcome screed;
It weel conveys frae end tae end
The he'rtfelt wishes o' a friend
On my retirement frae the strife
O' railway engine-drivin' life.

Weel, Davie lad, nae doot ye ken
I'm vergin' on three score an' ten;
Lang fifty-six o' thae I've given
In railway wark tae earn a livin',
An' wi' much faucht an' watchfu' een
I've kept my workin' record clean.

In a' thae years I'm prood tae state
I for my wark was never late;
Strong drink! I never felt its poo'er,
Nor Nicotine's allurin' lure,
An' maist as yaul as in my prime,
But Labour dubbed my age a crime.

For in this age o' push an' go
Three score an' ten is dubbed too slow;
When time begins tae gray your pow
"Too old!" is Labour's verdict now;
"Away! make room for younger men,"
I'm shunted noo in life's deid-en'.

But though my sun is nearly set
There's smeddum in the auld dug yet;
Though Labour placed me on the shelf,
Thank God! I can employ myself;
Wi' nature's God I'll spen' my 'oors
An' delve amang my shrubs an' floo'ers.

An' in Woodside's wee hamely biggin,
When winter's snaw lies on the riggin',
Snug in beside the inglenook
I'll spen' my time wi' some guid book,
An' thus employed await the ca'
That sune or late comes tae us a'.

In the following issue appeared a tribute from Mr D. Millar, Ayr, entitled:

THE LATE THOMAS FLOYD

The Muirlan' bard has left behind
The scenes he lov'd so well
("Where Brown and Adam sleep beneath
Auld Scotland's heather bell").
'Twas there he spent youth's happy days,
He there to manhood grew,
'Twas there, when toil was set aside,
He sweet retirement knew.

He sang of Wellwood's winding vale,
Cairntable and Wardlaw,
The sheltered shades o' Auldhouseburn,
And any a leafy shaw.
He praised the poets of the place
With facile, fluent pen—
McMurdo, Adamson, Whyte and Hodge,
And other worthy men.

Anent his upland, wind-swept home
He legends could unfold—
Traditions of the distant past—
Of daring needs and bold.
And often on an ev'ning hour
He found a joy and pride,
When friends forgathered round the hearth
In his wee cot, Woodside.

And now his spirit's sped away
To land of evergreen,
And joined the tuneful, chosen choir,
'Mid radiant, restful scene.
And we, who tread the path of life,
Bright hope will entertain
That when we too shall cross the bourne,
Our friend we'll meet again.

John Trotter, Sons, & Co.,
Limited,

The Drapery Specialists.

'Phone—New Cumnock 46, Muirkirk 38.

SPECIAL DISPLAY—

Dresses, Blouses, Ankle Sox, etc., suitable for warm weather.

Keep Cool and Comfortable by buying your wear at
TROTTER'S.

Reasonable Goods for Gentlemen's Wear at
John Trotter, Sons, & Co., Ltd.

NOTE.—Save up for a Great End of Season Sale to be advertised shortly.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1933**BIRTHS**

- BLAIKIE.—At Oban on 27th January, to Mr and Mrs David Blaikie; a son.
- MATTHEWS.—At 1 Wellwood Avenue on 14th February, to Mr and Mrs S. C. Matthews; a daughter.
- CAMERON.—In U.S.A. on 21st May to Mr and Mrs R. Cameron; a son
- SMITH.—At Crawford on 22nd May to Mr and Mrs A. Smith; a son.
- TELFORD.—In Australia on 22nd December to Mr and Mrs Fred Telford; a son.

MARRIAGES

- CHARLES HAWKINS to ELIZABETH WEIR on 6th February
- JOHN WEIR to FRANCES SIPMAN on 20th April.
- JOHN COSTLEY to MARION ROBB on 9th July.

DEATHS

- TELFER.—At Sandbank on New Year's morning, Helen C. Telfer.
- PEARSON.—At Motherwell on 6th January, Sophie Pearson (of Glenbuck).
- HENDRY.—At Main Street on 18th January, David Hendry, aged 66 years.
- YOUNG.—At Mossend, Main Street, on 25th inst, Margaret Docherty.
- CLOSE.—In U.S.A. on 25th January, Jane Close (late of Linkieburn).
- MAXWELL.—At Tarbert on 6th February, Margaret Symington.
- STIRLING.—At Kilmarnock on 12th February, John Stirling.
- CAMERON.—At Linkieburn House on 17th February, Alexander Cameron, aged 74 years.
- MARTIN.—In U.S.A. on 31st January, Marion Muir (late of Glenbuck).
- McNEIL.—On 22nd February, Thomas McNeil (late Watchmaker of Main Street, Muirkirk).
- WELSH.—At Co-operative Buildings, Main Street, on 25th February, Elizabeth Wilson, aged 75 years.
- MARSHALL.—At Yorkhill on 25th March, Grace Marshall, aged 6 years (of 54 Springhill Terrace).
- FLOYD.—In Australia on 14th February, William Floyd, aged 76 years.
- JACK.—At Albert Cottages on 5th April, Jane Jack.
- MATHIESON.—At Edinburgh on 7th April, James Mathieson, aged 1 year and 5 months.
- ROSS.—At High Valleyfield on 14th April, Jane Cochrane.
- SMITH.—At Glasgow on 4th May, Adam Smith, aged 63 years (of Grasshill Row, Glenbuck).
- KILPATRICK.—At Greenock on 16th May, Annie Kilpatrick, aged 25 years.
- MORRAN.—At 27 Glasgow Road on 6th June, David Morran, aged 39 years.
- NORTH.—At London on 13th June, George North, aged 34 years (late of Inglewood, Wellwood Street).
- HOGG.—At Glasgow on 16th June, John Hogg, master baker, aged 77 years.
- QUEEN.—At 98 Main Street on 6th July, Margaret Queen, aged 7 years.
- DODDS.—At Linkieburn Square on 8th July, William Dodds.
- McKEAN.—At 135 Main Street on 10th July, Sarah Logan.
- LESLIE.—At Glasgow on 14th July, William Leslie, aged 59 years (of Burnbrae Cottage).
- SHORT.—At Vass's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 15th July, Rebecca McGowan, aged 42 years.
- WILSON.—At Glasgow on 18th July, John Wilson (of Middlefield Drive).
- FLOYD.—At Woodside on 22nd July, Thomas Floyd, retired engine-driver
- HIGGINS.—At Garronhill on 11th August, Mary Ross, aged 60 years.
- VALLANCE.—At Darvel on 14th August, James Vallance, aged 68 years.
- SLOAN.—At Ronaldo Place on 22nd August, Mary Arbuckle, aged 64 years.
- MURDOCH.—In Trinidad on 21st August, Thomas Smith (of Townhead Farm).
- GIBSON.—At Gibson's Buildings, Main Street, on 27th August, Robert Gibson, aged 75 years.
- SMITH.—At Eglinton Arms Hotel on 26th August, John Grigor Smith, aged 47 years.
- McCALLUM.—At Glasgow on 3rd September, Bessie Semple (of Linburn, Muirkirk).
- BLACKWOOD.—At Old Post Office on 11th September, Polly Blackwood (late Postmistress).
- McKINNON.—At Albert Place on 10th September, John McKinnon, aged 43 years.
- GEBBIE.—At 10 Old Terrace on 10th September, George Gebbie, aged 83 years.
- MARSHALL.—At Burnside, Muirkirk, on 14th September, Margaret Marshall, aged 91 years.
- GAW.—At 5 Old Terrace on 23rd September, David Gaw, aged 65 years.
- BONE.—At Kerr's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 2nd October, William Bone, aged 75 years.
- NICOL.—At Barrhead on 13th October, Robert Nicol.
- MARSHALL.—At Hillside Cottage, Glenbuck on 4th November, Forbes Marshall.
- GIBSON.—At Ronaldo Place on 10th November, William Gibson, aged 49 years.
- BAIRD.—At 87 Main Street on 13th November, Elizabeth James, aged 57 years.
- IRVINE.—At 15 Springhill Terrace on 20th November, Hannah Wilson, aged 64 years.
- KAIN.—At Dreghorn on 25th November, Jessie Beck.
- McCALLUM.—At 1 Wellwood Crescent on 27th November, John McCallum.
- TAYLOR.—At Douglas Place on 7th December, John Taylor (for 34 years foreman engineer with Wm. Baird & Co.), aged 75 years.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

(1934)

GHOSTS OF MUIRKIRK

BEENIE

Less than a hundred years ago superstition had still a firm grip on Scotland, and the belief in witches, fairies, ghosts, wraiths, warnings, omens, second sight, and old freits, greatly influenced the lives of the Scottish peasantry. Consequently, most villages in Scotland had a local spook or haunted house, and our own village, always in the front with everything good (and bad) had two—the old Wellwood House and Midhouse of Kames. From stories handed down to us, Wellwood House was haunted by a young lady known as Beenie's Ghost.

Who Beenie was when she was in the flesh, and what the tragedy was that prevents her from resting in her grave, tradition has left us guessing. In the Wellwood House there was an upstairs apartment known as Beenie's room, and this room was said to be her headquarters. When she took a notion to have a midnight ramble, she was seen to leave the room, flit down the stairs and glide away in the direction of the "Lang Plantin'." This plantin' extended from Entryhead to Haystackhill on the south side of the Cumnock road, and was composed of giant beech, ash, and plane trees. Some of the old trees may still be seen on the very edge of a later plantation. The "Lang Plantin'" was said to be a favourite howf of Beenie's, as she was often seen there walking under the trees weeping and wringing her hands. If she chanced to be disturbed she disappeared in the direction of Wellwood House.

On the stair leading to beenie's room one of the steps was stained with several splashes of what looked like blood, and the servants when washing the stair always scrubbed the stain off, but the next day they were there bright as ever. About the middle of last century a Muirkirk joiner named Swinton was down at the Wellwood House doing some repairs, and one of the servants drew his attention to the step. He said he would soon sort that. So he removed the step and put in a new one. Strange to say, in less than two hours he was a corpse. To explain this, however, Swinton had been on the sick list for some time, and was taking a tonic prescribed by his doctor to be taken after food. The tonic was sent down along with his dinner to the Wellwood every day during the time he was there, but on that particular day, owing to some mistake, a bottle of poison was sent down instead of the tonic. Swinton, without noticing the difference, took it after his dinner, and died as stated above—a pure accident and coincidence. But superstition blamed poor Beenie.

In the early sixties of last century a young man named Jack Grass was under-keeper on Wellwood Estate. He was a harem-scarum dare-devil, and was oftner drunk than sober. One night, after being up in the village drinking with some companions, he arrived back at the Wellwood in a very tipsy condition and declared his intention to sleep in Beenie's room. Although advised against it, he did so. The next morning he was asked how he had fared. He replied that he would never tell a living soul his night's experience, and that though they promised him the Wellwood Estate, he would never sleep another night in Beenie's room. Judging from the tipsy condition he was in when he went to bed, he must have spent the night fighting blue devils and pink snakes. Superstition blamed poor Beenie. All the same, from that night till he left the Wellwood with his employer (Mr Critchley) Grass remained a silent, morose, sober man.

About eighty years ago, the Wellwood Home Farm, which at that time stood a few yards from Wellwood House was occupied by an old lady named Mrs Mahoul. As she had spent

most of her life on the farm, she was often asked for information anent Beenie and her life story. All the information she could give was that Beenie was just Beenie, and she whilst got a gliff o' her in the bygaun. Her information either proved Beenie's ghost was no myth, or else the old lady was endowed with a supernatural inferior complex. However, when the old Wellwood House was demolished in the late seventies of last century, Beenie must have changed her lodgings, as she has never been seen or heard since.

When some of the younger generation read this article I expect they will consider in "bosh." Nevertheless, Beenie and her "ongauns" were firmly believed in by the old folk of eighty years ago.

MIDHOUSE-OF-KAMES

Midhouse-of-Kames was another old house said to be haunted. It stood on the side of the Springhill Road near where the present Midhouse Row terminates, and comprised a storey and attic, with a stable at one end and a milkhouse and byre at the other. As it is not mentioned in any of the books relating to the history of Muirkirk, its age can only be guessed, but judging from its aged and weather-worn appearance it must have been a farmhouse for a long period of years, and why and when it was reduced to the status of an ordinary dwelling-house I am unable to say. However, it was let as a dwelling-house in 1863, and a railwayman who had been transferred to Muirkirk applied for and obtained its tenancy, but before he occupied it the neighbours warned him that the house was haunted, and told him a number of hair-raising stories anent the strange "doings" of the spook or spooks. Some of the stories are worth repeating.

An old shepherd named Tweedie, who had been employed at Midhouse and slept in the attic at night, said he was sitting at the fireside one night reading, with his dog lying at his feet, when he heard the sound of footsteps ascending the stair, entering the attic, walking round the floor, then departing the way they had come. Tweedie said he saw nothing, but when the footsteps were heard in the attic the dog gave an unearthly howl, leapt through the attic window, and was found next morning badly injured by the broken glass, and by neither coaxing nor force could the dog be induced to enter the attic as long as it lived.

A milliner, named Miss Macfarlane, said she was one night working late, preparing hats for a wedding party. When she had finished she hung them on the snags of an old tree stump she kept in the attic for that purpose, and retired to rest. She lay a short time viewing the hats and calculating her profits, when without the least warning the stump crashed to the floor. In a fright she drew the bedclothes over her head and sobbed herself to sleep, feeling quite sure the hats were destroyed and that she was ruined. When she wakened in the morning she was overjoyed to find the stump standing, with the hats on the snags undamaged as she had left them.

A Mrs Gibson said her sister had occasion to pass Midhouse one winter night at a late hour. She arrived home in a fainting condition, and told them that when coming past Midhouse a white lady suddenly appeared at her side and kept step with her till near the foot of the square, when she vanished as suddenly as she had appeared. The girls's fright developed into a severe nervous break-down which proved too much for her, and she died shortly afterwards.

The railwayman, after hearing the above stories and a few more in the same strain, was half inclined to cancel his tenancy, but, on second thoughts, as it was a suitable house with a low rental (£1 per annum) he decided to risk it. Three years passed, and during all that time the spook or spooks lay low and did "nuffin." However, one night in November, 1867, three of

the family (all boys) who slept together in the attic went up to their bed. They were scarcely under the blankets when a strange moaning sound commenced in the attic, apparently from some person in great pain. One of the boys whispered to his brother—"What is that, Johnnie?" He had scarcely finished speaking when bedclothes, boys, bed, and bed rungs were tossed on to the centre of the floor. And there they were—a mix-up of yelling boys and a sound as if two individuals were wrestling round the attic in a death struggle. When the parents heard the racket the father rushed up the stair, and pushing the door open, cried "In heaven's name what's that?" In an instant all was silent except the sobbing of two of the boys; the other one had fainted. Leaving the mother, who had arrived with a light, to attend to the boys, the father searched the closets, examined the window, and looked up the chimney, but could find no indication of anyone having been in the attic. After removing the boys downstairs he locked the door, and kept it locked till he obtained the tenancy of a house in the village.

It has often been said that truth is stranger than fiction, and it was truly so in this case. I singled out the three detailed stories because I had absolute faith in the veracity of the tellers, and I can vouch for the truth of the attic incident, as the railwayman was my father, and I was one of the boys.

The old house was demolished a number of years ago, and the stones were used in the building of the shepherd's house nearer Springhill.

THOMAS FLOYD

Woodside, Muirkirk.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1933

Births—85. As against 98 last year.

Marriages—16. Compared with 25 last year. It is interesting to note that the number of marriages recorded is the lowest since 1887, and along with the figures for 1869 is the second lowest since registration was commenced in 1855.

Deaths—47. Which was three more than last years

DROWNING TRAGEDY

Quite a wave of regret swept over the town on Tuesday afternoon (14th January) when it was learned that Mr Thomas Gourlay, printer, Girvan, had been the victim of a drowning accident an hour or two previously. Tom and ex-Provost McPhail had been to attend a funeral at Dunure, and after landing the Provost at Dunure Post Office, Tom was to turn the saloon motor car at the harbour, but in reversing ran the car into the harbour. About half-an-hour elapsed before the body was recovered, and although artificial respiration was resorted to it was of no avail. Although not exactly a native of this parish, being only a year or two old when he was brought to Muirkirk, he was reared within its confines. After a year or two underground, he began to learn his trade in the "Advertiser" Office here, and after about 10 years' tuition he entered into partnership with his employer (Mr William Shaw Smith, Editor) in a business in Girvan, but shortly after returning from France in 1919 he secured the sole control of the business. Tom was a frequent visitor to Muirkirk and his friends here. He took quite a part in the social life of Girvan, especially in the sporting side, he being a fair football player in his youth, indeed many hold that the Rennie-Gourlay combination formed the best right-wing that ever donned the Muirkirk Athletic's colour. For a time Tom was on the board of the Ayrshire and the Scottish Football Associations. He leaves a widow, a son, and a daughter; his son assisting him in the business.

MORE STATISTICS

Here are some more interesting details about local statistics. For the year 1933 there were 47 deaths in Muirkirk, and of these

- 1 was over 90 years
- 4 were over 80 years
- 11 between 70 and 80 years
- 8 between 60 and 70 years

It is remarkably to think that more than the half of our deaths last year were of those over the age of 60 years. To further show that our people are more healthy, we have patiently searched records, and find that for ten-year stages the averaged were as follows:—

1873-1883	average deaths	99.6	per year
1883-1893	average deaths	86.1	per year
1893-1903	average deaths	74.6	per year
1903-1913	average deaths	62.8	per year
1913-1923	average deaths	55.4	per year
1923-1933	average deaths	42.2	per year

Yet some people talk of the "good old days," and decry those who advocate improvements in all our health services.

Our heaviest death rate occurred in the following years:—

1863—117 deaths	1880—110 deaths
1877—156 deaths	1887—100 deaths
1879—112 deaths	1888—107 deaths

Many of our older people can recall the occasions mentioned, and assume the causes. Black plagues, etc., are blamed, but the true causes were undoubtedly (1) overcrowded and poor housing conditions, (2) lack of sanitation, (3) scarcity of proper nourishment, (4) inadequate medical services.

When the effects of the improvements are studied carefully, one should appreciate the more the time we are living in, and compliment our forebears in bringing about improvements and leaving the world so much better than they found it—a policy we all should follow.

RATES AND TAXES

The following table shows how the rates have risen over the years in Scotland:—

Year	Average Rate	Per Head of Pop.		
		£	s.	d.
1893-94	3 0	0	17	7
1903-04	3 10	1	5	5
1913-14	4 11	1	15	8
		Post War		
1918-19	5 9	2	1	11
1920-21	9 10	3	19	1
1922-23	8 9	3	15	5
1924-25	8 8	3	19	0
1926-27	9 7	4	9	3
1928-29	10 0	4	16	2
1929-30	8 9	4	5	8

HUSBAND REFUSED DIVORCED

A husband who on returning home from work one night found the house closed and his belongings in a box on the doorstep, has been refused decree of divorce by Lord Fleming in the Court of Session because he never took any steps of any kind to induce his wife to resume cohabitation with him.

The action was by David Forbes, surface roadman, Pearson's Buildings, Smallburn, against Joan Millar or Campbell or Forbes, whose present address was unknown to the pursuer.

A LITTLE MORE OF TIBBIE PAGAN

A few weeks ago we gave a short resume of Tibbie Pagan's book, "A Collection of Songs and Poems on Several Occasions," which evoked much interest, and it is perhaps right that any first-hand information with regard to this local poetess and contemporary of Burns should be put on record.

It is not such a far cry to Tibbie Pagan's time after all, and we are sure it is not common knowledge that the mother of the late Mr John Hodge, Sen., of the Baird Institute, and the late Mr James M. Hodge of Furnace Road (Mrs George Hodge, nee Leezie McEwan) was as a girl Tibbie's constant companion while she was at home in her cottage by the Garpel Water. The information here given was communicated from the lips of Mrs Hodge (or Granny Hodge as she was familiarly called in her later years) to the present generation of relatives. Granny Hodge's parents resided in the Coutburn Row, a little beyond Springhill on the Sanquhar Road.

For a living Tibbie went about the herd's houses in the Muirkirk, Kirkconnel, and Sanquhar districts doing a week's sewing, darning, knitting, or nursing as required, while she was the star turn at rockings with her songs and stories. (A rocking was a friendly visit in which neighbours met during the moonlight nights of winter and spring, and spent the evening alternately in one another's houses). In winter, when snow or other circumstances prevented her visiting the herds, she spun wool for them. Naturally she came a lot about the home of Granny Hodge's people.

In her later years Granny Hodge had a little shop, and sold brown robin, treacle ale, biscuits, etc., and when the treacle ale bottles plunked of their own accord, the boys (especially her relations) were ready and willing to assist with the disappearance of the luxury, and who knows but that they also assisted with the spontaneous (?) plunking!

SEEN AND HEARD

Miss Lois Phillips, daughter of the former headmaster at Muirkirk H.G. School, Mr James Phillips, was selected as Scotland's most beautiful girl in the "Daily Record and Sunday Mail" beauty contest.

In March Rev. David Crosbie, B.D. (a Muirkirk man), was ordained to the pastoral charge of Sandylands.

Muirkirk experienced a heatwave in July of 1934 when a temperature of 76 degrees was recorded.

The Rev. David Crosbie, B.D., married Miss Janet Henderson, daughter of the Parish Minister, Rev. John Henderson, who gave the bride away.

Mr and Mrs James H. Law, 10 Furnace Road, celebrated their diamond wedding on 25th September. Mr Law was an iron roller at the forge for the long period of 49 years.

Mr Robert Thomson, Heath View, Main Street, was appointed caretaker at the Baird Institute in place of Mrs Park, who resigned.

Mr G. W. Howieson was appointed general Manager of Kames Colliery.

More new Council houses were built at Garronhill and Middlefield Drive.

Permission was granted for the demolition of twelve house on the west side of Old Linkieburn, Nos. 51 to 57.

For Sale.

PARLOUR SUITE, Rexine, 7-Piece; 4 Kitchen Chairs, 1 Arm Chair. Any article sold separately. Cheap to clear. Apply Wm. Rowe, Wellwood Street.

FOR SALE, Gas Cooker (Main), also Oven Grate, 42 inches. Apply R. Thomson, Furnace Road.

GLENBUCK RE-UNION

In March the very first re-union of Glenbuck folks over the age of sixty years took place in the Public Hall. Mr John Rodger, Headmaster, was in the chair. In his remarks Mr Rodger said he first visited Glenbuck in December, 1885, just before his commencement of duties in the opening week of 1886, when, according to the Ayrshire Geography, the population was 365. A few years later, however, a census proved the population to be 1,174. Long before he knew it, Glenbuck was famous in history—in Covenanted times when men contended and suffered for civil and religious liberty. Then came the industry of iron and ore smelting, but this lasted less than 20 years. Later, a number of weavers combined their industry with that of farming. They died out, too, the last weaver passing in 1880. However, all would remember the houses in Stair Row, where the weavers used to live. After the weaving industry coal mining began to prosper. First there was the Eglinton Iron Coy., then the Cairntable Coy., followed by the Auchenstilloch Coal Coy. It would now be well over eighty years since the Eglinton Iron Coy. started Maidenbank Pit, which was abandoned in a few years. Other pits, all well known to his hearers, were afterwards developed—Grasshill, Galawhistle, Davie, etc. Mentioning the pits recalled the names of the manager at Grasshill—Mr McCulloch, and his faithful assistant, Mr Andrew Tait; and Mr Muir and Mr Robert Crosbie of Cairntable Pits.

MINING FIGURES

It is interesting to note the findings of a survey carried out by the Clydesdale Bank regarding economic conditions in Scotland, and we reprint the figures of the mining industry:—

Year	Average No. of Persons Employed	Production (000 Tons)
1913	139,424	42,456
1923	143,267	38,495
1933	80,350	28,264

Wage earners on Colliery books at:—

December, 1933 81,859

Wage earners unemployed at:—

December 1933 27,815

Wage earners temporarily stopped at:

December, 1933 1,651

Percentage rate of Unemployment—25.1

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Another good year for Muirkirk H.G. team, when they won the Bute Cup for the second season in succession. They beat Bank P.S. (New Cumnock) by 3-0 at Rosebank Park, Lugar. The Muirkirk team was:—G. Wallace; J. Walker, T. Muir; C. Murray, J. Loggie, T. Brown; W. Walker, W. Barrie, T. Dempster, T. Barr, W. Hogg. The scorers were W. Walker, J. Loggie, and C. Murray.

The Muirkirk lads had a great try at winning the League for a second time, but they could only finish in second place. It should be noted that Auchinleck scratched half way through the season, and all points won against them were deducted. The writer thought that had Auchinleck completed their games then the title would have went to Muirkirk

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1934**BIRTHS**

LONSDALE.—At Glasgow on 11th September to Mr and Mrs T. Lonsdale; a son.

MACDOUGALL.—On 15th November to Mr and Mrs MacDougall; a son.

WEDDINGS

JOHN WALLACE to HELEN MEIKLE on 24th March.

GEORGE HUNTER to JESSIE GOODING on 7th April.

THOMAS ROSS to HELEN McCALL on 1st June.

ANDREW WALLACE to GLADYS SMITH on 2nd June.

HUGH PARK to PRISCILLA WILSON on 15th June.

DOUGLAS DUNLOP to LILY HOGG on 12th July.

JOHN BROWN to ESMA MEECH on 4th June.

DAVID CROSBIE to JANET HENDERSON on 31st July.

ROBERT KIRKWOOD to ANNIE DALGRANO on 1st August.

ANDREW LOGIE to ISABELLA RAE on 10th August.

DEATHS

GOURLAY.—Accidently drowned on 16th January, David Gourlay, Printer, aged 53 years.

ARTHUR.—At 123 Main Street on 25th January, James Arthur, aged 81 years.

THOMSON.—At Glasgow Road on 2nd February, Jean Thomson, aged 83 years.

M'LACHLAN.—At Glasgow on 5th February, James (Fleming) M'Lachlan, aged 33 years (of Holm Cottage).

ANDERSON.—At 68 Linkieburn Square on 13th April, George Anderson, aged 75 years.

THOMSON.—At 131 Main Street on 15th April, Margaret Murdoch, aged 62 years.

LINDSAY.—At Glenbuck on 1st May, Robert Lindsay, aged 86 years.

CLOWES.—At 36 Garronhill on 11th May, Jessie Cummins, aged 83 years.

WALLACE.—At 3 Ironworks Cottages on 17th May, James Wallace, aged 52 years.

CROSBIE.—At Spireslack, Glenbuck, on 25th May, Andrew Crosbie, aged 70 years.

BROWN.—At 27 Midhouse Row, on 4th June, Lucy Wood, aged 56 years.

HAMILTON.—At Cambuslang on 4th July, James Hamilton, aged 16 years.

M'MILLAN.—At Glasgow on 20th July, Catherine M'Millan, aged 62 years.

MONTAGUE.—At Stewarton on 10th August, Jeanie Gibson (of 2 Bridge Street).

PARK.—At Kilmarnock on 24th August, Andrew Park, aged 14½ years (of 73 Linkieburn Square).

HENDRY.—At Kirkcaldy on 5th September, David Hendry, aged 27 years.

M'INTYRE.—At Garronhill on 21st September, James M'Intyre, aged 75 years.

YOUNG.—At Aberdeen on 9th October, Jean Young.

MURRAY.—At Bankhead on 14th October, Janet Thomson, aged 42 years.

PARK.—At 20 Kames Row on 8th October, Robert Park, aged 77 years.

HIGGINS.—At Glasgow on 22nd October (the result of an accident), James Higgins, aged 41 years (of 53 Springhill Terrace).

DOW.—At Glasgow on 2nd November (as the result of a burning accident), Elizabeth Dow, aged 15 years (69 Linkieburn Square).

SHORT.—At Parkhead on 29th October, James Short (late of Glenbuck), aged 75 years.

BAIN.—At Ashgill on 29th November, Richard Bain (late of Glenbuck), aged 75 years.

COMMERCIAL NEWS**JOHN TROTTER, Sons, & Co., Limited,**

announced the take over of the business previously carried on by Mr James Steele (Draper), and the corner of Main Street and the Glasgow Road.

HUGH KEENAN, Hairdresser

intimated that he had opened a Gent.'s Hairdressing Salon at 105 Main Street.

GEORGE SHANKS

(Watchmaker and Jeweller) announced that he was giving up his business in Main Street.

Messrs NEIL BUCHANAN & SONS

(Plumbers & Slaters, Sanquhar and Muirkirk)

stated that they had relinquished the Muirkirk Branch of their business.

JAMES GIBSON & SONS

OF SORN

Declared their intention of carrying on Business as Joiners, Cart and Wheel Wrights, and Cabinet Makers, on the premises formerly occupied by the late John D. Wood, Inglewood, Muirkirk.

T. WOODBURN, Plumber & Slater

secured the premises lately occupied by N. Buchanan & Sons at Victoria Buildings, main Street.

ELIZABETH McCALL

announced the commencement of business as a Ladies' Hairdresser at 8 Furnace Road.

Fishing Tackle.

RODS, REELS, LINES, GUT, HOOKS.
Best Quality.

Nicol Hamilton's Trout Flies.

KENNEDY, Ironmonger.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

(1935)

OLD MUIRKIRK

[The following is an excerpt from Pigot & Co.'s Scottish Directory for 1837, and is interesting as showing the changes since almost 100 years ago, and it will be noticed that a business or two are mentioned that are still in existence. The culture of blackface sheep is evidently an old industry in the district, as witness the premier prize at the Highland Show being carried off in 1835 by a local animal. Many of the names are quite familiar, and can be easily placed].

MUIRKIRK

is a thriving and considerable village, the capital of the parish of its name, in the district of Kyle; 50 miles w.s.w. from Edinburgh, 30 s. from Glasgow, 26 e. by n. from Ayr, 24 s.e. from Kilmarnock, and 16 n.w. from Sanquhar; situate near the right bank of the water of Ayr, at the junction of the roads leading from Glasgow to Dumfries, and from Edinburgh to Ayr; and in a district rude and bleak, the land but being partially reclaimed from its original mossy and moorish character; another considerable portion, however, profitably employed in grazing and pasture, and in 1835 the blackface sheep fed in this parish carried the Highland Society's prize.

Though nature has not been bountiful to the farmer or encouraged the labours of the agriculturist, she has been abundantly kind to the miner, for coal, iron, and limestone are liberally dispensed throughout the territory. At the Muirkirk's Iron Company's works are three blast furnaces, constantly in operation, for the manufacture of pig iron; the malleable description is also produced here, both in a rolled and hammered state. There are, besides, extensive tile and lime works, belonging to the Duke of Portland, who, with Lord Douglas and the Hon. Colonel Cathcart, are the principal proprietors of the land in this parish. Its length is nine miles, by an average breadth of about six, bounded on the north-east by Douglas, on the east by Kirkconnel, on the South by Cumnock, and on the west by Loudoun. In the village are two libraries, which are well conducted, and the like number of good inns—the Black Bull and the Masons Arms. Fairs are held in the months of July, August, and December.

Post Office—Adam McCaul, Post-Master—The English and South letters arrive (from Douglas) every afternoon at half-past one, and are despatched every morning at half-past eight. Letters from Kilmarnock arrive every morning at half-past eight, and are despatched every afternoon at half-past one.

Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy

Alexander Aird, Esq., of Crossflatt.
Rev. John Aird.
Andrew Allison, Esq., of Tardoors.
William Brown, Esq., of Greenockmains.
Mr William Officer.
Mr William Pearson, Muirkirk.
Rev. James Symington, Manse.

Innkeepers and Vintners

Margaret Begg
James Gibson
John Johnstone
Robert Kay (Black Bull)
Samuel Taylor
Archibald Thomson (Masons Arms)

Schools

Robert Callan.
Ironworks Company's School—William Bryden, Master.
William Johnston.
James McCartney.
James Muir.

Shopkeepers and Traders

William Aird, Miller and Sawyer.
Margaret Bailey, Dress Maker.
John Begg, Smith and Farrier.
James Blackwood, Joiner.
Marion Blackwood, Dress Maker.
Brown & Wilson, Stone Masons.
Thomas Bryden, Shopkeeper.
Margaret Dollan, Draper.
John Ferguson, Manager of Collieries.
Janet and Ann Fletcher, Milliners and Dress Makers.
Jean Forrest, Shopkeeper.
James Gibson, Shopkeeper.
Margaret Gibson, Dressmaker.
David Gray, Surgeon.
Andrew Hamilton, Draper.
James Harkness, Boot and Shoe Maker.
David Holm, Tailor.
Archibald Kennedy, Surgeon.
James Kirkland, Tailor.
John Lapraik, Cooper.
Margaret Lennox, Dress Maker.
Adam McCaul, Merchant and Stamp Distributor.
John McClonnachan, Shoe Maker.
Margaret McGhee, Dress Maker.
John McKerrow, Ironmonger.
James Meikle, Blacksmith.
Joseph Muir, Grocer and Spirit Dealer.
Muirkirk Iron Company—Thomas Carswell and William Falconer, resident Partners.
Alexandr Reid, Tailor.
Daniel Robertson, Draper.
John Robertson, Tailor
Hugh Smith, Boot and Shoe Maker.
James Smith, Boot and Shoe Maker
William Smith, Boot and Shoe Maker.
John Swinton, Joiner and Glazier.
Samuel Taylor, Shopkeeper.
Thomas, Telford, Tailor.
Robert Thomson, Grocer.
William Thomson, Tailor.
James Whyte, Manager of the Duke of Portland's Tile, etc., Works.
Thomas Whyte, Baker and Joiner.

Carriers

To Ayr—John Lambie, from the Black Bull, every Monday and Thursday.
To Cumnock (Old)—John Kerr, from the Black Bull, every Thursday and Friday, and Robert Latta every Thursday.
To Edinburgh—Robert Latta, every Saturda.
To Glasgow—James Ronald, from his house, every Monday and Thursday.
To Kilmarnock—John Kerr, from the Black Bull every Tuesday and Friday.
To Mauchline—George Reid, from Samuel Taylor's every Monday and Thursday.
To Ochiltree—John Lambie, from the Black Bull, every Monday and Thursday.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1934

During the year there were 75 births, as against 185 the previous year; marriages were 21 (5 more); and 29 deaths compared with 47 the previous year. It is most interesting to note that the number of deaths is the lowest registered locally since 1855, when registration was commenced, while the number of births, along with a similar number registered in 1929, also shares the distinction of being the lowest since 1855. So far as marriages were concerned, 1934 was a normal year.

VISIT OF HARRY LAUDER

The annual re-union of Muirkirk old folks was held in the Ironworks Institute on 10th January, when an audience of 300 were present when no less a personality than Sir Harry Lauder, the world famous Scots comedian, looked in to say "Hello!" When the preliminaries of the evening were over, Sir Harry Lauder and his niece, Miss Greta Lauder, arrived, and they were given a great ovation. Sir Harry immediately took the stage, and for about an hour he kept the large audience keenly engrossed with his songs, jokes, and antics. His vocal numbers were—"I Love a Lassie," "Roamin' in the Gloamin'," "Flower o' the Heather," and "Keep Right on to the End of the Road," and each was enthusiastically applauded. Commenting on Sir Harry's performance, one could aptly quote the remark of one admiring guest who was overheard to say—"Man, he's guid! Ah could listen tae him a' nicht an' never tire." Sir Harry spoke of his last visit to Muirkirk, about 1899, and said that when he was coming across the moors from Maybole to Muirkirk he wrote the first verse and chorus of "I've Loved Her Ever Since She Was a Baby," and he had never forgotten the song. He was very pleased to be present, and his only excuse was that he liked to come and see old folks who couldn't come to see him. Before leaving, Sir Harry was asked by Mrs (Granny) Gibney (92 years of age) to accept a useful meerschaum pipe as a memento of the occasion, while Mr C. P. Bell handed over a box of chocolates to Miss Lauder. Sir Harry returned thanks, and said that each time he "pu'ed and puffed" at his pipe would remind him o' that nicht.

CHANGES IN THE VILLAGE.

The year 1935 was to see some startling changes to the appearance of Muirkirk. Ayr County Council made a clearance order for the demolition of seven houses in Main Street known as Nos. 46, 50, 52, and 58, and the 2 shops known as Nos. 48 and 54 Main Street. This was to make way for the Building of the new houses across from the Central Bar.

Clearance orders were made for the area in Smallburn Road containing the 8 houses known as Numbers 44, 46, 48, and 50 Smallburn Road. In the same vicinity a clearance order was granted for the area containing 16 houses known as 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 96, 98 and 100.

Also to be cleared were the area at Glenbuck containing the 16 houses known as Numbers 24 and 25 and 29 to 34 (inclusive) Office Row, and 12 to 19 (inclusive) Old School Row, Glenbuck.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

South Ayrshire

Rt. Hon. James Brown (Labour) 18,190
 Major J. O. MacAndrew (Nat.) 13,386

Majority 4,804

There are 40,465 voters in the Constituency—20,546 and 19,919 women

SEEN AND HEARD

In March the death was announced of Rev. Colin A. MacKenzie, who had been Minister at Glenbuck Church for the last forty years.

Mrs Margaret Smith was granted a licence for the Eglinton Arms Hotel, and Mr John W. Gray, Stonehouse, was granted a licence for the Empire Bar, formerly held by Mr John Wilson, Sen., while Mr John Wilson, Jr., was granted a certificate for the Royal Arms in Glenbuck, formerly held by his father.

Alexander Prentice, Garronhill, was killed in an underground accident at Kames Colliery.

The Dux Medallist at Muirkirk H.G. School was Andrew Barrie.

The Masonic Bowling Trophy was won by two rinks from Muirkirk Preceptory composed of—(1) Andrew Pringle, James R. Wilson, James Bell, Hugh Bell; (2) Andrew Findlay, William Patrick, Robert K. Wilson, John Guthrie.

Mr James Wilson, Glasgow Road, was appointed caretaker at the Dundas Hall in place of Mr James Hodge.

In December, no application being received for the renewal of the licence held by Mrs Lindsay for the Kyle Inn, the licence automatically lapses. This is an old licence, and under the name of "The Black Bottle," trading was carried on for many years.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

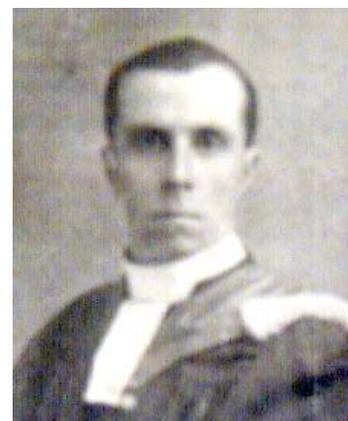
County Council Result

Henderson, Rev. John 755
 Colthart, John 703
 Majority 52

District Council Result

Henderson, Rev. John 701
 Love, Hugh 565
 Murdoch, Ronald 535
 McLuskie, Peter 388
 McKenzie, Norman 382

It is understood that, as Rev. John Henderson has been successful in the County Council Election, he will resign from the District Council, and Mr Ronald Murdoch, Glenbuck, will secure a seat in the District Council. There are two seats.



Rev. JOHN HENDERSON, B.D.
 Who celebrated his Semi-Jubilee as Minister of Muirkirk Parish Church in October

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1935**BIRTHS**

HUNTER.—In South Africa on 20th March to Mr and Mrs George S. Hunter; a son.

DUNLOP.—At Pollokshaws on 25th August to Mr and Mrs D. Dunlop; a daughter.

WEIR.—In Ceylon on 20th August to Mr and Mrs J. S. Weir; a son.

MARRIAGES

LESLIE HURST to ELIZABETH GRAY on 1st January.

Dr GEORGE M. SHAW SMITH to MARGARET WILLENS on 25th January.

HAROLD BAIRD to MARGARET CLARK on 4th February.

THOMAS GARDINER to MARY SAMSON on 20th Feb.

ALEXANDER RAMSAY to SARAH STEVENSON

WILLIAM KINNAIRD to ELLEN MILLER on 12th July.

WILLIAM MILLAR to MARY WOOD on 25th October.

DEATHS

WALLACE.—At 137 Main Street on 24th December, 1934, George Wallace, aged 71 years.

McCALL.—At Glasgow on 17th January, James McCall, aged 11 years (of 11 Wellwood Street).

MITCHELL.—At 127 Main Street on 13th January, Janet Henderson, aged 63 years.

LAW.—At 10 Furnace Road on 27th January, Christina Law, aged 84 years.

BARR.—At Glasgow on 27th January, Isabella Begg.

PARK.—At Garronhill on 28th January, Jane Dunbar, aged 81 years.

SAMSON.—At Kilmarnock on 31st January, Robert Samson, Smallburn, aged 84 years.

DEVLIN.—At 50 Smallburn on 24th February, Peter Devlin, aged 68 years.

KENNEDY.—At Glasgow on 28th February, John Kennedy (Ironmonger).

KIRKWOOD.—At 125 Main Street on 11th March, Thomas Kirkwood.

GOODLET.—At 1 Kames Row on 24th March, Sarah Blair, aged 59 years.

HANNAH.—At Glasgow on 21st March, Robert Hannah (of 50 Kames Row).

MACKENZIE.—At The Manse, Glenbuck, on 27th March, Rev. Colin A. Mackenzie.

DUNSMORE.—At 46 Kames Row on 29th March, Annette Dunsmore, aged 2 years.

DAVIDSON.—At Glasgow on 12th April, Logie Davidson, aged 31 years (of Douglas Place).

HAMILTON.—At Langloanhead, Muirkirk, on 14th April, David Hamilton, aged 62 years.

MURDOCH.—At Ayr on 22nd April, Mary Forsyth, aged 83 years (of Linkieburn Square).

PRENTICE.—Accidentally killed in Kames Colliery on 18th April, Alexander Prentice, aged 35 years. (of 32 Garronhill).

WILSON.—At Ardrossan on 29th April, Marion Brown, aged 76 years (of Smallburn).

WARDROP.—At Burns's Buildings on 12th May, Susan Vallance, aged 67 years.

COLLOW.—At New Cumnock on 17th May, Kathrine Bell.

MURRAY.—At 18 Victoria Buildings on 22nd May, Thomas Murray, aged 54 years.

SMITH.—At Ayr on 7th June, Isabella Aitken, aged 24 years (of 92 Main Street).

PARK.—At Ayr on 17th June, Janet Park (of 23 Springhill Terrace).

PARK.—At Garronhill on 22nd June, Robert Park, aged 74 years.

MURDOCH.—At 4 Jubilee Row, Glenbuck, on 29th June, Robert Murdoch.

ALSTON.—At Sornlea on 6th July, Christina Baird, aged 74 years.

CLARK.—At Glasgow on 10th July, Andrew Clark, aged 1 year and 8 months (of 64 Main Street).

JACK.—At Glasgow on 23rd July, Janet France.

STIRLING.—At Kilmarnock on 19th July, Robert Stirling, aged 58 years.

HILL.—At Glenafton on 30th July, John Hill, aged 44 years (of 51 Kames Row).

ALEXANDER.—At Glasgow on 6th August, Samuel Alexander, aged 53 years (of 41 Glasgow Road).

KENNEDY.—At 13 Park Terrace on 6th September, William Kennedy, aged 58 years.

McKAY.—At Ayr on 22nd September, Agnes Hunter, aged 57 years (of 10 Woodview, Garronhill).

GIBSON.—At 75½ Main Street on 9th October, Isabella Ross.

ROSS.—At 45 Glasgow Road on 20th October, Mary Ross, aged 85 years.

VALLANCE.—At 47 Smallburn on 18th October, Elizabeth McKinnon, aged 79 years.

McDONALD.—At Co-operative Buildings, Bridge Street, on 24th October, Thomas McDonald, aged 72 years.

BELL.—At Glasgow on 31st October, Joan Stevenson (of Woodend, Muirkirk).

BRYCE.—At March House on 10th November, Thomas Bryce.

TOWLE.—At Glasgow on 14th November, William Towle, aged 8 years and 11 months (of 3 Ironworks Cottages).

NISBET.—At Wellwood Street on 26th November, William Nisbet, aged 79 years

BAIRD.—At Kateshall on 3rd December, Euophemia Beck, aged 83 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Co-operative Buildings, Kirkgreen, on 29th November, Robert Dempster, aged 69 years.

HENDERSON.—At Cumnock on 18th December, John Henderson.

McLATCHIE.—At 37 New Terrace on 17th December, James McLatchie, aged 58 years.

ANDERSON.—At 47 Glasgow Road, on 21st December, Lily Seymour, aged 83 years.

CO-OPERATIVE DIVIDEND

3/- per £1

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

(1936)

LOOKING BACK

Mr James Strickland, Colliery Manager, and a Muirkirk man of course, who was stationed at Houldsworth, Patna, was the guest speaker of the 1936 old folks' re-union in the Ironworks Institute, and it is interesting to quote from his address.

Mr Strickland proposed to spend a wee while "ower the watter." And so they would commence by "knocking down" the Institute and restoring in its place the old Castle, with its white-washed walls. They would then rebuild the wee wooden brig over the sheugh—the entrance from the main road to the Castle grounds, where had dwelt their old friend, Tam McQueen. After rebuilding the Castle they would knock down the Kirk and the Manse, and restore that part of the old Square which had to make way for the more modern buildings. Then a large part of the stone dyke round the Railway Buildings would have to come down, and the railway sleeper fence erected there. Ironworks Cottages, too, would be disposed of, and Linkieburn House (where had lived Mr Hugh Millar and Mr William McCulloch restored to its original state. The Linkieburn, too, would be altered, and there would be no Springhill Terrace or Honeymoon Row. Amid this setting Mr Strickland suggested they should spend a wee while as boys and girls again.

From where they would take themselves off to the old Well-wood Pit, either past the Kames Row on the old Waggon Road, or up past Springhill and out by the old Coutburn Row and Tibbie's Brig across the dear old Garpel. Arriving at the pit, they would start to push the hutches up the road leading to the old Fan Pit, but out would come old Adam Murdoch to chase them away. Making their way up No. 12 Burn, they would linger awhile above the Fan looking for peewits' eggs if it was springtime. Proceeding their ramble up the burn they would ultimately reach the top of Wardlaw, and return directly down the face of the hill, or strike across to the "White Horse" and return by the old Sanquhar Road. For a change they might go up to the old Square, past the end of Midhouse Row up to Joe Baird's Quarry, run with the hutches out and in the tunnel, then go down to the Injection dam for a "dook," then perhaps go up to Ladeside Park for a game of football, followed by another "dook," in the Lade this time.

In the long winter nights the time was spent in other ways. Things were different then, with the Furnaces going, the Chemical Works, the Forge and Mill, and all the busy workshops. What a busy, cheerful place Muirkirk was then compared with now, said Mr Strickland. The blowing of the Furnace horn, answered by the Chemical Works horn, the fillers at the top of the furnaces, the preparations for the cast, the thud of the hammers in the forge, the rolling mill, the shears—all made a medley of music which, unfortunately, was absent to-day. Mention of these places recalled pleasant memories of old familiar faces, and the Chairman, in passing, mentioned the names of such as Johnny Seymour, Jimsie Brown, Paddy Clifford, "Hen" Hastings, W. Hastings, Billy Clifford, Charlie Lowe, Bob Lowe, "Mate" McCann, Jock "Skelly," Shanyan Connor, "Buck" Connor, Tammy Lowe, Jamie Wilson, Owen McIver, etc.

Mr Strickland described the boyish pranks indulged in, in and around the Furnaces when he was a boy, and said that in those days the winters seemed much more severe than now. When the canal was frozen they spent many a pleasant night on the ice, and they could skate as far up as Bankhead, while curling was indulged in by the light of the Ironworks.

They could not stay the passing of time, however. They started work, and life took on a different aspect, but personally he had never ceased to derive the greatest pleasures in roaming where he was wont to roam as a boy, enjoying nature in all its beauty. No matter where he himself might be his thoughts always wandered back to the dear old moorland village of happy memory, to the wail of the plover, the startled cries of the grouse, the call of the cuckoo, the songs of the mavis, the blackbird, and the lark, and to the music of the burn whispering by. It was wonderful that those things of sweet delightfulness endured through the changes of the ages—life's old-fashioned things bide in the shadowy nooks of memory.

BUSINESS NEWS**ROWE'S TOWNHEAD CAFE**

Offered Teas, Coffees, Chips, Fish Suppers, and Peas

J. MONTGOMERY

Painting and Paperhanging
The Picture House, Muirkirk.

JENNIE CALLAN

Dressmaker and Ladies' Tailor
Fairmount, Glasgow Road.

Messrs R. YOUNG & SON

acquired the
Ironmongery and Hardware Business
formerly carried on by Mr John Kennedy
in Main Street.

Miss M. WALKER

took over the business formerly carried on
by Miss Nancy Wilson at
90 Main Street, offering
Millinery, Drapery and Hairdressing.

ROBERT SMITH

(Late of Muirkirk Co-operative Society)
Opened a Gent.'s Tailor's Business
at 71 Glasgow Road

New Season's Lamb.

Bred and Fed on the Banks of the Ayr.  A Treat!

I don't give a button
Whether it's beef, lamb, or mutton—
Oh! what must it be to be there!

Where? Ayr? No!

RUSSELL'S, 89 Main Street.

The Shop for Prime Butchermeat.

VITAL STATISTICS (1935)

Births—75. One of the lowest since 1855.

Marriages—31. An increase of 10 from the previous year.

Deaths—45. As against 29 the previous year.

DRAUGHTS CHAMPION (Feb. 27 Issue)

It is now a far cry to the days when the late Mr Hugh Henderson was a power in the draughts world around us, but memories were awakened the other day through the hanging of his portrait in the recreation room of the Baird Institute, where he at one time spent many of his leisure hours. The portrait bears the following inscription, which speaks for itself:—"Hugh Henderson, Draughts Player, Born Muirkirk May, 1872; died U.S.A., Oct. 12, 1918. Learnt the game in the Baird Institute, Muirkirk, was twice finalist in the Scottish Tourney, gained Championship of America in 1912, and successfully defend' from 1907 till his death."

LORRY UP CAIRNTABLE

Cairntable is one of the survey points for the ordinance survey to be taken of the district in the near future, and a concrete pillar or platform for the surveying instruments is at present being built on the summit (May). The last survey from this point was taken in 1851. We understand the surveying is to be done at night with the aid of beacons, and the gentleman in charge of the preliminary operations on Cairntable has just come from Moffat where another point on Hart Fell has been similarly prepared. Several local men have been employed in transporting the two and a half tons of cement, sand, etc., used in the construction of the platform to the summit, and on Monday night a motor lorry belonging to Messrs Andrew Clement & Son, the local contractors, actually made the ascent right up to the cairns. The vehicle, carrying a light load, left the Roadway near Riggend, and, proceeding over the heather, made the ascent up the face of the hill with, we understand, only one slight hitch. The news that a motor lorry was to attempt to reach the top of Cairntable gave rise to a good deal of conjecture in the village, and few seemed to think it possible, but the lorry got there alright and after a short time came safely down with its cheery and jubilant crew of young men and one or two ladies.

This innovation has rather altered the view of Cairntable from Muirkirk, as the westmost of the two old cairns has been shorn of its top, the stones having been placed around, the whole being covered with turf, this showing a flat plateau from the distance. The low concrete platform will occupy the centre of the plateau. The lorry has since repeated the operation, and joy riding on Cairntable has become quite popular.

A LINK WITH THE PAST

There was interred in Muirkirk Cemetery on Monday last (22nd June) the remains of the widow of James Hunter of Auldhouseburn. A daughter of the late the Hon. Lord Ardmillan, she died in London on 19th June, aged 86 years. Auldhouseburn is now in other hands, and one can remember the removal, in the dead of night, of the remains of several of the Hunters from the private mausoleum in the "Vault Wood" to the New Cemetery.

LICENCE TRANSFER

Mr John Douglas, Thornliebank, was granted a licence for the Masons Arms Hotel, and the licence for the public house at 77 Main Street was transferred to Mr William Hunter. An application by Mr James Crawford, Hamilton, for transfer of the licence for the Empire Bar was refused.

SEEN AND HEARD

Mr and Mrs Robert Gibson, 2 Bridge Street, celebrated their Golden Wedding in January.

John Logie (31), of Morton Place, lost his life in an underground accident at Kames Colliery.

The Death was announced of Dr T. P. Hutchison, who had practised at Muirkirk for a number of years.

Rev. David Barr was inducted into the ministry at Glenbuck in February.

It was decided to extend Kames Pithead Baths to accommodate another 150 lockers, bringing the total to 700.

Tom Brown, the Glenbuck schoolboy internationalist, signed for Blackburn Rovers.

Lawrences Shows visited Carruthers Park.

The work of demolishing the old buildings on the site between Victoria Buildings and Clydesdale Bank was commenced in May.

Death was announced of Miss Jessie Blackwood, formerly of the old Post Office.

A trout weighing 4 lbs. 2¾ ozs. was caught in the River Ayr by Mr James Wardrop.

What with the demolition of old properties and the erection of new houses the village is losing many of its old aspects. Now workmen are busy dismantling part of the old Furnaces. Should the whole structure be torn down, Muirkirk will seem a vastly different place.

An early start on Saturdays is now in operation at Kames Colliery. Work is now commenced at 6 o'clock instead of seven, the shift being finished at 1.30 instead of 2.30 p.m.

A QUOITING RECORD

A reader of the "Advertiser," and a keen follower of sport, has kindly handed us a record of the principal performances in the career of John Kilpatrick, the Scottish Quoiting Champion, and a native of Muirkirk, of course. Here are John's chief performances:—

In ten years six times Scottish Champion, winning the title the last four years in succession.

Has won three Scottish Cup badges with three Clubs—Greenock, St. Rollox, and Cowliars.

Won the A. G. Hales Shield competition (open to Scotland) three times in five years, winning the trophy outright.

Won the Darvel annual tournament eleven times, six times in succession, competing against all the crack quoiters.

Won the Wyllie Challenge Cup for the Glasgow Competition so often that he was requested to keep it.

To date he has won eighteen Championship matches in succession.

Has defeated the English and Welsh Champions in every International match in which he has played, and has captained the Scottish team on several occasions.

At the beginning of his career won twelve of his fourteen money matches. His biggest money match was for £200 against R. McBride, Larkhall, and John won.

This is undoubtedly a record to be proud of, and with Kilpatrick still playing the brand of game which keeps the worthiest of opponents in the background, there is every likelihood of still more success being added to his credit.

As expected, John Kilpatrick retained his Scottish Championship in September when he beat J. Anderson, Heriothill, in the final by 61 shots to 42. This is the fifth year in succession John has won the Championship!

THE RECORD OF GLENBUCK

The village of Glenbuck can surely claim a record, compared with any other village of its size, and indeed very many much larger, in producing sons to gain worthy recognition in the realm of sport, and more especially in football circles.

The largest population ever recorded in Glenbuck was 1,300 about fifty years ago, and to-day the population is between three and four hundred. Glenbuck Athletic Football Club was instituted in 1888, and won the Ayrshire Junior Cup in 1888-89, 1889-90, and 1890-91—a record which has never been equalled. Although there is no team in the village nowadays, Glenbuck can still produce football “goods,” and quite a number of Glenbuck boys are keeping up the good name and reputation in senior football to-day, while to all intents and purposes there are other first-class players in the making.

Here is a list of players Glenbuck has given to senior football, and the names of many will recall pleasant memories to some of the old readers:—

Joe Wallace to Newcastle.
 Alex. Wallace to Airdrieonians.
 John Menzies to Lanemark.
 James Muncie to Middlesborough.
 Bob Blyth to Rangers, Preston, Portsmouth.
 Alex. Tait to Preston, Tottenham.
 John Crosbie to Ayr, Birmingham.
 William Muir to Everton, Dundee, Hearts.
 William Knox to Everton.
 Thomas Knox to Hamilton.
 Hugh Knox to Sunderland.
 Walter Ferguson to Sheffield Wednesday.
 Robert Tait to Mother, Cowdenbeath.
 William Blyth to Portsmouth, Preston.
 Thomas Brown to Leicester, Chesterfield, Portsmouth.
 Peter McIntyre to Preston Sheffield Wednesday.
 Alex. McConnell to Grimsby, Sheffield United.
 John McConnell to Kilmarnock, Bradford, Grimsby.
 John Ferguson to Hamilton, Cowdenbeath.
 Johnnie Bone to Everton.
 Jock Bone to Aston Villa.
 John Hastie to Celtic.
 James Nisbet to Ayr United.
 John Anderson to Kilmarnock.
 Alex. Shankly to Ayr United.
 James Shankly to Portsmouth, Sheffield United.
 John Shankly to Portsmouth, Blackpool, Alloa.
 Robert Shankly to Alloa, Turnbridge Wells, Falkirk.
 William Shankly to Carlisle, Preston.
 John Davidson to Coventry.
 John Murdoch to Clyde.
 James Weir to Cowdenbeath, Southend.
 David Henderson to Motherwell.
 Alex. Park to Falls River (America).
 John Wallace to Partick Thistle.
 Bert Wallace to Hamilton, Plymouth Argyle.
 Tommy Brown to Blackburn Rovers.
 Sandy Brown to Preston, Portsmouth, Tottenham.

In addition to the foregoing, the following players, although not resident in the village, were introduced to first-class football by Glenbuck, this being the only junior club they ever played for:—

John McKenzie to Newcastle, Hearts.
 George Halley to Kilmarnock, Burnley.
 Robert Crawford to Preston.
 William Banks to Kilmarnock, Manchester City.
 Archie Garrett to Hamilton, Millwall.

In the quiting world, too Glenbuck has produced many keen sportsmen and doughty opponents, and surely none can claim to have produced a more skilful exponent than Thomas Bone, the undisputed Champion of Great Britain.

FIRE AT THE WORKS

There was some excitement on Monday (8th September) when dense volumes of smoke were seen belching from the Scrubber, a huge erection at the old Chemical Works alongside the Furnaces. The landscape east of the Furnaces was more or less blotted out by the smoke, and we understand there were 'phone calls from as far away as Douglas to ascertain what was the matter. However, there was no need to worry. The workmen engaged in dismantling the Works had attacked the Scrubber, a metal erection dome eighty feet high and perhaps thirty feet square, which they intended to fell like a chimney stack. They were burning off plates to weaken the base when a quantity of tar and oil inside caught fire—hence the resultant flames and smoke. A couple of charges of dynamite on Tuesday morning brought the structure down neatly to the space selected, and soon its massive plates and girders will be broken up.

THE FURNACES (Nov. 12 Issue)

The work of dismantling and breaking-up continues apace at the old ironworks, and on Monday one of the three furnaces was razed to the ground. The furnace, a stone structure some fifty feet high and twenty feet in diameter, was built on eight cast iron columns, and it required three charges of explosives to bring it down. The first charge shattered only one pillar, the second shattered three more, but with the third shot the furnace toppled over. The structure seemed to remain intact until it reached an angle of about 45 degrees, and then broke up to fall in hundreds of pieces. A cameraman from Pathe Gazette Company was present and took pictures of the structure coming down, and also of the workmen preparing the charges.

SCHOOL ROLL, 1936

	On Roll	Last Year	Av. Attend.
Muirkirk	582	620	539
Glenbuck	61	68	54
St. Thomas R.C.	78	82	68
Wellwood	17	18	16

MINERS' BALLOT

The ballot taken in November amongst Scottish miners in connection with the new wage proposals of the coal-owners resulted in their acceptance by a majority of 2,380. In Ayrshire 5,245 voted for acceptance and 2,633 against, and the local figures were:—

Muirkirk	For 242	Against 350
Glenbuck	For 16	Against 27

This was the only area in Ayrshire which had a majority against the proposals, which are applicable for the next three years.

Something New—

PARADISE CAKES,

Tasty and Delicious, and well worthy of the name,

 1d Each.

STRAWBERRY TARTS,

The Tit-bits-de-Luxe. A Great Delicacy!

HOGG, BAKER.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1936**BIRTH**

HUNTER.—In South Africa on 3rd September to Mr and Mrs George Hunter; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

ROBERT McKINLAY to MARY KIRK on 7th February.

THOMAS HASTINGS to JANET JACK on 8th July.

ROBT. HARKNESS to MAVIS TURNBULL on 15th August.

ROBERT CUNNINGHAM to MARGARET McCANN on 24th October.

TED BRADLEY to JEAN HIGGINS on 1st November.

DEATHS

McKEAN.—At 41 Smallburn on 25th December, 1935, Wee Thomas, aged 11 months.

TELFER.—At Ayr on 12th January, Thomas Telfer (of Glasgow Road).

JACK.—At 6 Bridge Street on 17th January, Robert Jack, aged 64 years.

MILLAR.—At 137 Main Street, on 17th January, Margaret Wilson, aged 70 Years.

BROWN.—In Australia on 26th January, Peter Brown, aged 57 years.

MUIR.—At Holytown on 27th January, Martha Black, aged 81 years (of Stableyard, Muirkirk).

ROBB.—In Canada on 17th January, James Robb, aged 51 years.

VALLANCE.—At 103 Main Street on 19th February, Jane McDonald, aged 77 years.

MITCHELL.—At Dalkeith on 28th February, John Mitchell (late of Grasshill Farm, Glenbuck).

YOUNG.—At 8 Furnace Road on 1st March, Jessie Thomson, aged 76 years.

MASTERTON.—At 21 Midhouse Row on 15th March, John Masterton, aged 15 years.

STRICKLAND.—At 84 Main Street on 27th March, Margaret McChristie, aged 80 years.

FYFE.—At Middlefield Drive on 13th April, Robert Fyfe.

WARDROP.—At Catchieburn on 20th April, James Wardrop.

GILCHRIST.—At 10 Smallburn Road on 23rd April, Robert Gilchrist.

JACKSON.—At Ayr on 7th May, Thomas Jackson, aged 60 years (of 29 Middlefield Drive).

JOHNSTON.—At Glasgow Road on 17th May, Catherine Connor, aged 72 years.

BLACKWOOD.—At 63 Glasgow Road on 1st June, Jessie Blackwood (late Postmistress, Muirkirk).

GOLD.—At Albert Cottages on 1st June, Mary Thomson.

FLANAGAN.—At 20 Middlefield Drive on 4th June, John Flanagan, aged 71 years.

McCOUBRIE.—At Motherwell on 29th May, Margaret Kerr (late of Glenbuck).

ROBB.—At 27 Garronhill on 4th June, Robert Robb, aged 44 years.

WEIR.—At 12 Middlefield Drive on 14th June, James Weir, aged 35 years.

McCALL.—In New York on 17th June, Janet McCall, aged 32 years (of Garronhill House).

SPENCE.—At Glasgow on 22nd June, John Spence, aged 71 years (of 22 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck).

TAIT.—At Cowdenbeath on 1st July, Andrew Tait (late of Glenbuck).

FISHER FRANCE.—At 20 Bridge Street on 3rd July, Margaret Rennie, aged 82 years.

BLACK.—At Glenafton on 23rd July, Neil Black, aged 43 years.

KERR.—At Cairn House on 27th July, James Kerr, aged 80 years.

MORAN.—At 53 New Terrace on 21st July, Andrew Moran, aged 15 years.

FALCONER.—At 3 Wellwood Crescent on 8th August, Bella Douglas, aged 57 years.

MORAN.—Suddenly on 30th July, Patrick Moran, aged 38 years, of 35 Garronhill.

DAVIDSON.—At 7 Jubilee Row, Glenbuck, on 17th August, Jessie Eaglesham, aged 58 years.

MASTERTON.—At 16 Garronhill on 24th August, George Masterton, aged 62 years.

MARTIN.—At 19 Clark Place on 24th August, Mary Kirkpatrick, aged 93 years.

STEELE.—At Glasgow on 28th August, Robert Steele (late of 13 Old Terrace).

RODGER.—At Prestwick on 3rd September, Jessie Cant (formerly of Schoolhouse, Glenbuck).

ROSS.—At Kirkgreen on 5th September, Liliast Gilchrist, aged 54 years.

BAIN.—At Glasgow on 20th September, James Bain (of the Store, Glenbuck).

LOCKHART.—At Co-operative Buildings, Glenbuck, on 24th September, Thomas Lockhart, aged 33 years.

MARSHALL.—At 9 Bridge Street on 7th October, Margaret Murdoch, aged 83 years.

LESLIE.—At 104 Main Street on 1st November, Jemima King, aged 65 years.

GILCHRIST.—At Garronhill on 19th November, Margaret Fraser, aged 63 years.

BAIRD.—At Prestwick on 22nd November, Mary Orr, wife of Dugald Baird, late of Muirkirk.

GIBSON.—At Glespin on 26th November, Elizabeth Currie (of Parishholm).

FALCONER.—At Glasgow on 5th December, John Falconer, aged 84 years.

McFEGAN.—At 43 Garronhill on 23rd December, David McFegan aged 85 years.

Bargain Lines in Ladies' Underwear**Millinery—**

See the New Season's Models.

Fine Range of Ladies' Hosiery.

Call and See Our Stock.

HAIRDRESSING as Usual.

M. WALKER,

Main Street, - Muirkirk.

CHAPTER THIRTY

(1937)

VITAL STATISTICS

During 1936 births registered here totalled 86 (11 more than last year), while 37 deaths were registered in Muirkirk (eight less than last year). The number of marriages registered was 44, the fourth highest since 1855 (the highest was in 1899 when there were 52; 1920 had 48, 1901 46). Very peculiarly there were no marriages in Muirkirk on Hogmanay, and for the first time in 40 years our Parish Minister had a holiday so far as tying the "knots" were concerned.

SNOWSTORM

In early March the worst snowstorm in fifty years swept the country, and this district had its full share of the snowfall. The drifting snow on Saturday made road traffic very difficult indeed, and late in the evening vehicles were unable to proceed owing to deep drifts. The late bus from Lanark to Muirkirk could get no further than Glespin, and the passengers, with one exception, put up there for the night. The other passenger, together with the driver and conductor, set out to walk home, the one to Glenbuck and the other two to Muirkirk, and after what must have been an ordeal in the blizzard, the 'busmen reached home shortly after five o'clock on Sunday morning. Meanwhile, Muirkirk parties in private cars were also held up. One party returning from Hamilton were forced to abandon their car in a drift on the Sware Brae, and walk home through the snow. Another party, returning late from Glasgow, found the road blocked near Strathaven and they had to look for accommodation for the "morning." In this case it is felt that the Strathaven police might have done a little more for the company. Still another Muirkirk party, who had travelled by car to a dance at Cumnock, were unable to leave and stayed the night there. This party set out for home on Sunday, but the road was still impassable, so leaving the car at Cumnock they hiked the ten miles home. One local milkman was unable to get in for his round on Sunday, the road being blocked by a private car, while there were no newspapers. Several workmen got started to the roads, while a large squad were employed on the railway line leading to Kames Colliery. Snow ploughs were clearing the railway on Sunday, and thus there was no interruption in rail traffic. On Monday more men were busy on the roads, and while local vehicles were able to get about, the 'bus services were not resumed till Tuesday afternoon.

IRONWORKS DEMOLISHED

The demolition of the old iron and chemical works has now been completed, only the chimney stacks being left standing. Mr John Muir, Glenbuck, who was in charge of the demolition work here, has been given the contract for the dismantling of Lugar furnaces, and work is now in progress there.

A MUIRKIRK STORY

What is claimed to be a Muirkirk story (names are given) is the following:—The scene was in a Woolworth special train from Ayr one night lately. The compartment was full, and the crack had been anent so many Muirkirkers making Ireland their holiday destination this year. Young woman—"By, I wudnae like tae gang tae Ireland. They sae it's awfu' cauld an' it's fu' o' Catholics." When the train stopped at Comondyke a man got out, and, after he was on the platform, he looked in at the open window and said—"My wuman, next time ye're thinkin' o' gaun a holiday ye should try hell. They say it's fine an' warm, an' it's fou o' Protestants."

SEEN AND HEARD

Mr and Mrs James Moore, 3 Whyte's Row, Glenbuck, celebrated their Golden Wedding on Hogmanay.

A fire at Kames Farm destroyed a hayshed valued at £600,

Three new letter-boxes have been installed at Heathfield, Furnace Road, and New Terrace.

The death was announced of Mr Charles P. Bell, retired school teacher, and a well-known personality in Muirkirk.

The Dux Medal at Muirkirk H.G. School was won by Margaret Paterson.

The Rev. Alexander Telford was inducted as Minister of Muirkirk E.U. Church in April.

Mr Thomas Drife, Cumnock, replaced Mr Morton Muir as manager at the Clydesdale Bank.

The Ironworks are rapidly disappearing—little more than bricks left now (April).

Mr Andrew Welsh, Co-operative Buildings, Main Street, died aged 80. He had been secretary of the Co-operative Society for a period of 45 years, plus three years as assistant secretary.

Glenbuck Co-operative Society celebrated its Jubilee in May with a social, concert, and dance in the Public Hall.

The coronation of Their Majesties King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth was celebrated in Muirkirk on 12th May with a local holiday. A religious service, fancy dress parade, and sports programme marked the occasion. There were similar celebrations in Glenbuck.

Sergeant John Sharpe of Muirkirk Constabulary has been appointed to the Joint Central Committee of the Scottish Police Federation.

We understand the local Gas Company are to erect another gasometer on the neighbouring feu at Furnace Road.

John Kilpatrick carried off the Scottish Quoiting single-handed championship for the sixth time when he defeated W. Anderson, Birkenshaw, by 61—33 at Dalmuir.

An accident at Kames Colliery claimed the life of Alex. Summers (66), of Hedgegrove, Muirkirk.

NOW WE KNOW

Last summer when the base for instruments was made on the top of Cairntable there was considerable speculation and conjecture as to the use to be made of it. It was stated that it was in connection with the Ordnance Survey, and that such erections were being placed on several hills. On quite a few occasions the lights were seen flashing at night on Cairntable this spring, the operators resident in tents near the reservoir at Auldhouseburn. A National newspaper gives a little insight into the matter:—"Electric beacons are being erected on certain mountain tops of Scotland by a party of men attached to the Ordnance Survey Department, which is responsible for the mapping of the whole country. The 'O.S.,' as it is popularly known, is planning to check all its work of the past 150 years, and the present work is the first stage. Actually the whole countryside is divided into huge triangles, all abutting to one another. The base lines of these triangles run for as far as 30 miles. The only method by which these points can be accurately gauged is to erect lighted beacons and observe the angles during the night. The work started last year in the South of England, but now the engineers have reached the North of Scotland. At present they are working on such mountains as Ben Nevis, Ben Lawers, and Ben Cruachan. Within two years more Great Britain once again will have been mapped out in huge triangles, and then the re-division of these into smaller triangles will commence."

TROPICAL STORM

In common with other important centres Muirkirk had its tropical storm on Thursday evening (Aug. 12) of last week. There was a cloudburst over Wee Cairntable, and the burns and the River Ayr in the Ashieburn district were transformed into raging torrents. Some sheep were grazing near the river, and a telephone message of the onrushing water was the means of saving the flock. On the hill big boulders and strong bridges were carried away by the deluge. In the upper reaches of the Ayr the river has meantime altered its course. Opposite the village, which largely escaped the downpour, the river overflowed its banks and carried away a number of ricks of hay belonging to the Royal George, and there was quite a spectorate to witness the ricks gracefully sailing along and out of sight. It is no very unusual thing for the holms to be flooded, but to see and hear the rush of the water is very unusual. Over all the village one could hear the rush of the water like a train in the distance. One who lives near the river voiced it as "roarin' like a sea." Before dark the water had to a great extent subsided.

DEATH OF A NATIVE

In August the death was announced of the Right Hon. John Hodge, who was born in Linkieburn on 29th October, 1855. Mr Hodge started work at the age of 11 years, and in time became iron smelter, secretary of the Steel Smelters' Association, leader of the Trades Union and Labour Movements, Privy Councillor, first Minister of Labour, and later Minister of Pensions. In 1906 he was elected to the House of Commons for the Gorton Division of Lancashire, and continued as its M.P. till 1923, when he retired from active political life. Near relatives still reside in Muirkirk.

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

The first public supply of electricity to our district was officially inaugurated on Saturday, 6th November. A formal ceremony took place at the Control House behind the Baird Institute, and there was a large attendance. Proceedings were very brief, and Rev. John Henderson, B.D., Parish Minister, was asked to switch on the street lights formally. This he did, and on went the lights in Main Street, Glasgow Road, Garronhill, Wellwood Street, Kirkgreen, and Bridge Street.

The Sunday following was a memorable one in the history of the Old Parish Church. In the morning an Armistice Service was held, and in the evening all roads led to the Church for the inauguration of the electric light. At the beginning of the service the Church had been lit as usual by gas. The Minister asked the Beadle to extinguish the gas, and the Session Clerk, Mr George Taylor, switched on the electric lights.

THE BIRD SHOW

After a lapse of nine years, Muirkirk Ornithological Society resuscitated their annual open show, which was held in the Dundas Hall, and attracted 450 entries of pigeons, bantams, and cage birds from all over Great Britain, it being recognised as formerly one of the most prestigious shows.

FOOTBALL

Speculation had been rife in the village for some time that an effort would be made to restart junior football locally, and in this connection there was a full turnout at a public meeting held in the Dundas Hall in February. Great enthusiasm was shown, and it was decided to form a club and name it Muirkirk Junior Football Club, and so another era in the life of the village was born, and one which would bring much joy and satisfaction to the sporting fraternity. The officials elected were:—

President Mr John Douglas

Vice-President Mr Thomas Hazle

Secretary Mr John Torbett

Treasurer Mr George Park

together with a Committee consisting of Messrs James Ballantyne, James Anderson, James Smith, S. C. Matthews, Thomas Rorrison, Mr John Shankly, and Mr James Gibson.

It was hoped to gain admittance to the necessary Ayrshire Football Associations and League.

In June the Club secured a lease on Ladeside Park, and work commenced on returfing the surface.

It was felt there was little hope of the Club being admitted to the Western League, and it was decided to approach the Lanarkshire League in this respect.

Work was commenced on a new Clubhouse in July, and it looked like Ladeside Park would be transformed into a really fine sports ground.

It was hoped that Junior football would be played in Muirkirk in 1938

NEW ADVERTISERS

ALEX. LITTLE

Registered Plumber and Slater

Started business in July, and operated from
8 Wellwood Avenue.

NANCY SCOTT

intimated that she had taken over the Business of

Home Baking and Confectionery

carried on for many years by

Miss Nessie Ramage in Main Street

Specialities include Bridies and Fruit Cakes

94 Main Street

MUIRKIRK RADIO AND FURNITURE HOUSE

Opened a Shop at

89 Main Street

Mrs MURRAY

commenced

business at 90 Main Street

for

Ladies' and Children's Wear

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1937**BIRTHS**

WILSON.—On 14th February to Mr and Mrs Thomas Wilson; a daughter

LOGGIE.—On 25th March to Mr and Mrs R. F. Loggie; a son.

SHANKLY.—On 27th June to Mr and Mrs Robert Shankly; a son.

MARRIAGES

THOMAS KIRKWOOD to JOANNA HAMILTON on 31st December, 1936

ALEXANDER SHAW to RAE WALLACE on 8th March.

WILLIAM LOGGIE to BEATRICE HORN on 17th April.

JOHN WALLACE to MARY MORRISON on 18th June.

ROBERT DUNN to MARTHA WINNING on 26th June.

RODERICK MCKENZIE to PEGGY LOGIE on 31st July.

JOHN METHVEN to HELEN GIBSON on 11th August.

ROBERT GORDON to GEORGINA MENZIES on 27th August.

JAMES ADDISON to EDITH KAY on 26th October.

DEATHS

DEMPSTER.—At 16 Bridge Street on 8th January, Eilzabeth Morris, aged 72 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Madeleine Place on 7th January, James Dempster, aged 69 years.

SAMSON.—At 38 Main Street on 8th January, Euphemia Weir, aged 70 years.

McMURREN.—At 20 Furnace Road on 19th January, Elizabeth McMurren, aged 81 years.

MONTGOMERY.—At 55 Kames Row on 12th February, Margaret Kirkwood, aged 67 years.

BELL.—At 12 Midhouse Row on 20th February, Charles P. Bell, retired schoolteacher.

PATRICK.—At St. Nicholas, Wellwood Street, on 18th February, William Patrick, aged 62 years.

GILCHRIST.—At 28 Midhouse Row on 27th February, William Gilchrist, aged 39 years.

BROWN.—At Glasgow on 14th March, William Brown (late of Stableyard).

TORBET.—At 23 Springhill Terrace on 13th March, William Torbet, aged 65 years.

CALDOW.—At 28 Park Terrace on 27th March, Margaret Caldwell, aged 28 years.

LESLIE.—At Saltcoats on 27th March, Alexander Leslie (retired Stationmaster).

RICHMOND.—At Campbelltown on 28th March, Agnes Richmond.

CALDOW.—At 28 Park Terrace on 7th April, John Caldwell, aged 73 years.

MURDOCH.—At 25 Garronhill on 14th April, Alexander Murdoch, aged 80 years.

McCLYMONT.—At Kirkburnhead on 16th April, John McClymont, aged 58 years.

CLEMENTS.—At Glasgow on 3rd May, Joseph Clements, aged 10 years (of 65 Main Street).

BARRIE.—At Glenafton on 14th May, Helen Barrie, aged 22 years.

HERON.—At 27 Springhill Terrace on 15th May, James Heron, aged 62 years.

FLEMING.—At Rowanbank, Glenbuck, on 22nd May, Margaret Wallace, aged 72 years.

McCALL.—At Victoria Buildings on 14th June, Margaret Murray, aged 58 years.

WEIR.—At Glasgow on 26th June, Agnes Ferguson (of Heathfield, Muirkirk).

FINDLAY.—At 50 Springhill Terrace on 2nd July, Sarah McKean, aged 72 years.

JOHNSTONE.—At 19 Glasgow Road on 6th July, Charlotte McDonald, aged 88 years.

PICKERING.—On 17th July, George Pickering, aged 75 years (of Torhill Cottage).

ROSS.—At Glasgow on 25th July, John Ross, aged 54 years.

CALDOW.—At 23 Park Terrace on 13th July, Hugh Caldwell, aged 39 years.

MATHIESON.—At 3 Wellwood Avenue, on 10th August, Margaret Maxwell, aged 67 years.

HENDERSON.—At 25 Midhouse Row on 26th August, Charles Henderson, aged 34 years.

SAMSON.—At 38 Main Street on 13th August, Thomas Samson, aged 80 years.

BRADFORD.—At Ayr on 8th September, Mary Grove, aged 45 years (of 1 Springhill Terrace).

SHIELDS.—At Victoria Buildings on 22nd September, Jean Whyte, aged 72 years.

PARK.—At Ayr on 20th September, Wee Euphemia, aged two years and nine months (of 7 Torhill).

MURCHIE.—At Newton Mearns on 24th October, Margaret Murchie (late of Bankend Farm).

HENDERSON.—In U.S.A. on 16th October, David Henderson (late of Muirkirk).

CLARK.—At Ayr on 3rd November, Martha McBride, aged 62 years (of Middlefield Drive).

GIBSON.—At 2 Bridge Street on 13th November, Margaret McDougall.

GIBNEY.—At Paisley on 1st December, Mrs Cornelius Gibney (late of Muirkirk).

SUMMERS.—Accidently killed in Kames Colliery on 22nd November, Alexander Summers, aged 66 years (of Garronhill).

STEVENSON.—At Woodend, Smallburn, on 11th December, Mary Stevenson, aged 67 years.

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE

(1938)

A LONG WORKING CAREER

Mr James Smith, the oldest worker in this district, retired from active service on 15th February. Born at Calderbank, near Airdrie, in 1859, Mr Smith commenced work in a smithy at the age of nine years. He came from Wishaw to Torhill at the age of fourteen, and commenced work at Joe Baird's quarry. He also saw service in the Sand Pit, the Wellwood Pits, as well as at Maidenbank, Lightshaw, and Kames. He was pitheadman at Lightshaw for ten years, and acted in a similar capacity at Kames Colliery for nearly thirty years. Thus he has had a working career of nearly 70 years, while his service with Wm. Baird & Co., and latterly Baird & Dalmellington, Ltd., totals 64½ years. He was also a Special Constable for 15 years. Mr Smith, who lost his life partner in 1921, resides with his son and daughter-in-law at 12 Wellwood Avenue. He has always enjoyed good health, and is still fresh and hearty, as can be judged from the fact that he and another retired veteran worker—Mr W. Muir, had a stroll out to Seggholm the other day, and are even considering a walk to Strathaven.

MILK FOR MINERS

The daily milk habit cultivated in the schools has now spread to the mines, and since last week (April) a supply of milk has been available at the pithead baths at Kames Colliery. The milk is supplied in bottles containing one third of a pint, and that the idea is proving popular is evinced by the fact that over 400 of these bottles are being sold daily.

FOOTBALL

As early as February, preparations were going ahead to try and sign a team, in their expectations that there would be junior football in the village in season 1938-39. Mr Francis Lochhead was appointed the new secretary.

In June Muirkirk Junior F.C. were admitted to the Scottish Junior Football Association and also to the Ayrshire J.F.A. Then in July the news the entire village had been waiting to hear—The Club was admitted to the Western League, but by the smallest of margins, the voting being 10 for and 8 against. Therefore the new League would be made up as follows:—

Auchinleck Talbot	Kello Rovers
Johnstone Athletic	Meadow XI.
Cumnock Juniors	Winton Rovers
Ardeer Recreation	Glengarnock Vale
Saltcoats Victoria	Darvel
Dalry Thistle	Dreghorn Juniors
Glenafton Athletic	Irvine Victoria
Troon Athletic	Hurlford United
Kilbirmie Ladeside	Largs Thistle
Kilwinning Rangers	Muirkirk Juniors

A resume of the 1938-39 season will be given in the next chapter.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1937

Births—66. Lowest number recorded since 1855 when registration was commenced. There were 86 births in 1936.

Marriages—21. Is 23 less than in 1936, although the same number as in 1934.

Deaths—50. An increase of 13 over the previous year, and the highest number recorded since 1922.

RAINFALL

It appears that the year 1937 was Muirkirk's driest for a considerable number of years, the rainfall totalling 37.74 inches. January was the wettest month, with a rainfall of 6.605 inches, while March had the smallest amount of rain—1.01 inches. Nevertheless, out of the 163 dry days during the year, May, with a rainfall of 1.47 inches, had 21 dry days, the best record of any month, November being next in order with 19 dry days.

SEEN AND HEARD

Harry Caldwell was one of the artists at the recent Old Folk's Re-union at Cronberry, and scored a big success with his comic songs, quips, and antics.

Mr George Williamson, Midhouse Row, was appointed greenkeeper at Muirkirk Bowling Club.

Owing to a block on the main railway line near Sanquhar, the Thames-Clyde express and the 12.10 express, both bound from Glasgow to London, were diverted via Muirkirk.

Negotiations are taking place for the sale of the Dundas Hall. We understand the price is between £800 and £900.

At the Licensing Court the transfer of the Masons Arms was granted to Mrs Bella Weir, Arbroath. This licence was held by Mrs Weir's father and mother from 1901-1936.

The excavation of the site for the new tennis courts at Victory Park is proceeding apace.

At Cumnock Academy Sports Willie Devine won the championship. Willie was 1st in the 100 yds, 220 yards, 440 yds, and broad jump; second (equal) in the high jump, second in putting the weight, and second in throwing the cricket ball.

Once upon a time Muirkirk could boast two orchestras, a silver band, and a pipe band, but alas they died off one by one. The orchestras, then the silver band ceased to function, and now it seems the pipe band has followed suit. Lack of interest is the reason given.

Mr. and Mrs Thomas Morton, 4 Wellwood Crescent, celebrated their Golden Wedding in July.

Benjamin Hendry, 111 Main Street, lost his life at Kames Colliery on 7th July, when he was caught by a fall of rock. He was 37 years of age.

New Offices and a First Aid station were built at Kames Colliery.

Mr and Mrs John Loggie celebrated 50 years of married life on 13th July. The couple reside at Rigside.

The Dux Medallist at Muirkirk H.G. School was Vera Monaghan

There was another Golden Wedding in September, when the happy couple were Mr and Mrs John Wilson, formerly of the Empire Bar.

HOTEL RE-NAMED (June 9th)

Half a century ago the hotel at the top of the Furnace Road was known as the "Black Bull," but its name was changed to the "Eglinton Arms." At the same time the hotel as always been known by its original name to Muirkirkers, and we notice that the "Black Bull" is now emblazoned in large letters on its walls. A change for the better, Grigor!—It may be mentioned that the name of the old "Black Bottle" was changed to the "Kyle Inn," but the sign has been removed, and the building (in Kirkgreen) is now a private dwelling.

END OF THE LINE

The "Pug Line" from the railway sidings past Bankhead Pit to Ponesk is being lifted, while the bridge at Ponesk has already been dismantled. This would seem to discount the opinion that work would start up between Muirkirk and Glenbuck—at least, for some time to come.

THE NEW REGAL CINEMA

In September that year work commenced with the alteration of the Dundas Hall into the new Regal Cinema. From the 24th November Issue:—

As will be seen from our advertising columns, the new Regal Cinema is to be opened on Friday, 2nd December. The Dundas Hall has been completely reconstructed and enlarged to the comfortable seating capacity of approximately 600.

And so on that evening the formal opening of Muirkirk's new Cinema took place before a large and representative audience. The opening ceremony was performed by Rev. W. Craig Alexander, and others on the platform were Mr James Muir (one of the Directors of the Glebe Cinema Coy.), Dr Lindsay and Mr Scott.

The Regal is certainly a credit to the Company and contractors. In the interior the side walls have been utilised to depict a charming garden scene—a very fine piece of artistry. In the balcony and area comfortable arm chairs are provided for all the patrons. An electrically controlled curtain in front of the screen also gives a touch of distinction, and, in short, all concerned have made a really fine job of work.

The first performance was the gigantic musical "Rosalie," and featured Nelson Eddie and Eleanor Power.

Admission prices were;—Front Stalls 6d, Back Stalls 9d, Balcony 1/-.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1938

BIRTHS

CONNELL.—At 2 Kames Row on 5th March to Mr and Mrs Robert Connell; a son.

MARRIAGES

JOHN McEWAN to JERAN SHAW on 8th April.

DOUGLAS JASPER to JEAN HAMILTON on 23rd April.

JOHN MacLEOD to JEAN WILLIAMSON on 2nd July.

ROBERT McCULLOCH to DOROTHY CATHER on 12th August.

JAMES HENDERSON (The Manse) to VERA WARE on 20th August.

THOMAS WHARRIE to MARGARET LOGGIE on 3rd September.

HANS HUHTALA to SADIE MILLER on 17th September.

ROBERT SMITH to DOROTHY HARDY on 9th October.

VINCENT BROWN to ROSE DONAGHY on 24th November.

DEATHS

McKENZIE.—At Kames Colliery on 14th January, Alexander McKenzie, aged 52 years.

LOVE.—At Helenslea, Main Street, on 21st January, Jane Rae.

MITCHELL.—At 38 Garronhill on 24th January, Janet Mitchell, aged 74 years.

SHAW.—At Ochiltree on 20th January, Agnes Wilson.

LOGIE.—At Glasgow on 6th February, John Logie.

STITT.—At Dundas Cottage on 2nd February, Elizabeth Thomson,

MILLIGAN.—In U.S.A. on 4th February, Walker Milligan (late of Bank House).

MOFFAT.—At 27 Middlefield Drive on 14th February, Agnes McMillan aged 70 years.

DAVIDSON.—At Glasgow on 15th March, John Davidson, 66 years.

ROBB.—At 41 Smallburn on 21st March, Jean Robb, aged 18 years.

McCULLOCH.—At Haystackhill on 9th April, Janet Vallance, aged 68 years.

McFEGAN.—In Canada on 12th March, as the result of an accident, Robert McFegan (late of Muirkirk).

SANDERSON.—At Irvine on 21st April, Ernest Sanderson, aged 43 years (of Victoria Buildings).

BRADFORD.—At Ronaldo Place on 23rd April, Robert Bradford, aged 48 years.

WILSON.—At Ardrossan on 28th April, Charles Wilson, aged 81 years (late of Smallburn).

EASTON.—At Newmains, John Easton, aged 75 years (late of Muirkirk).

McLEOD.—At Railway Buildings, Smallburn, on 26th May, John McLeod, aged 81 years.

SAMSON.—At Ayr on 30th May, Hugh Samson (of Bridge Street).

CRAWFORD.—In Switzerland on 9th July, Agnes Crawford, aged 84 years.

HENDRY.—Accidentally killed in Kames Colliery on 7th July, Benjamin Hendry, aged 37 years (of 111 Main Street).

RUSSELL.—At Edinburgh on 13th August, Euphemia Russell, aged 80 years (late of Smallburn).

DEMPSTER.—At 20 Smallburn on 24th August, Mary Hogg, aged 65 years.

GILCHRIST.—At Garronhill on 19th August, James Gilchrist, aged 67 years.

HAMILTON.—At Motherwell on 18th August, Catherine Hamilton, aged 47 years.

CONNOR.—At Motherwell on 30th August, May Connor, aged 18 years (of 47 Linkieburn).

BARR.—In New Zealand on 11th August, John Barr, aged 55 years (late of Glenbuck).

HAZLE.—At 1 Burnside on 21st September, Helen Hazle, aged 22 years.

McKIE.—At Fife on 27th September, Thomas McKie, aged 47 years (late of Muirkirk).

FLEMING.—At Glasgow on 1st October, Samuel Fleming, aged 51 years (of 19 Midhouse Row).

MORAN.—At 71 Linkieburn on 3rd October, Bridget Boland.

LINDSAY.—At Manse Lane on 22nd October, John Lindsay, aged 25 years.

McDOUGALL.—At 2 Bridge Street on 22nd October, John McDougall, aged 66 years.

MORAN.—At 38 Kames Row on 20th October, James Moran.

WALKER.—At Ronaldo Place on 27th October, Charles Walker.

ROSS.—At Fife on 25th December, Alexander Ross, J.P., aged 61 years (late of Muirkirk).

MRS STEVENSON retired from her Dairy Business in Smallburn.

HUGH KEENAN (Hairdresser) removed to new premises at 23 Main Street (Old Post Office).

JOHN ARMSTRONG advertised Paints & Wallpaper at Furnace Road.

A. McINTYRE advertised Lyon's Ice Cream at Heathfgied, Glasgow Road.

PEGGY BARRIE commenced Ladies' Hairdressing at 8 Jack's Buildings.

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

(1939)

REGAL CINEMA DESTROYED BY FIRE

(16th February Issue)

A disastrous outbreak of fire gutted the new Regal Cinema on Friday morning. The outbreak was discovered about 5 o'clock, when the alarm was at once raised. The local fire-fighting apparatus was promptly requisitioned, and a band of volunteers were soon working strenuously and wholeheartedly in an effort to quell the flames. A westerly wind was blowing at the time, and the adjoining premises and dwelling houses above, owned by Muirkirk Co-operative Society, Ltd., were in grave danger of catching fire, the flames licking against the gable and the roof. The local firefighters concentrated on saving this property, and in this they were successful. Nevertheless, the occupants of the houses left their homes hurriedly with some of their personal effects, and one elderly lady was carried to a place of safety.

Meanwhile, Ayr County Fire Brigade, who had also been summoned, had arrived on the scene, and played water on the interior of the Cinema, but within two hours of the outbreak being discovered the fire had destroyed everything but the walls and the fireproof operating-room and its contents.

News of the outbreak quickly spread, and a large crowd watched the fire helplessly on its ruthless career of destruction. The damage is estimated at £5,000, and we understand is covered by insurance. How the fire originated is a mystery.

Regret was expressed on all sides at such a cruel fate for this fine modern establishment, which was opened only in December last, but the management took their reverse philosophically, and the flames had hardly subsided before they were considering ways and means of reconstruction. As a result, a gang of workmen were started on Monday to clear away the debris, and the reconstruction work is to be proceeded with as quickly as possible.

N.B.—The writer can just remember going to school that morning and passing the scene of devastation, with embers still smouldering, and there seemed to be hoses and water all over the place. What did stick in his memory was that the putty from the front windows had run off, just like jelly.

VILLAGE CHANGES

Passing years bring many changes, and the face of Muirkirk is being gradually altered—all for the better, we hope. Not so long ago Bankhead was quite a busy row—even had its own Quoting Club and ground—but now it is deserted. The last tenants moved out in June, and the houses not already down will soon be demolished

STILL MORE LIGHT

The Ironworks Institute building has now been fitted throughout for electric light, and the power was turned on some days ago (July). There are something like twenty switches, as the caretaker's house as well as every room has now its own light. The improvement is specially noticeable in the ante-rooms, where oil lamps have done service for quite a time. We understand there has still to be fitted in the hall a dimming apparatus suitable for use in twilight dances. The whole building has been re-wired and fitted by our local electrical expert, Mr Alex. Little.

CO-OPERATIVE DIVIDEND
3/1 per £

THE REGAL RE-OPENED

(1st June Issue)

On shortest possible notice the Regal Cinema is being informally re-opened to-morrow. As we go to print workmen are still busily engaged. The Management is confident that patrons will find in the new Regal the same homely atmosphere and comfort that made the "old" Regal so popular. The same comfortable seating is being installed, and tasteful furnishings will complete what is almost an exact replica of the "old" cinema.

The inside decoration is again an outstanding feature and is indeed of "Regal" character. We understand that the special ventilation system will keep the atmosphere at a correct temperature—cool in the summer and cosy in the winter. The opening picture is "Alexander's Rag-Time Band," starring Tyrone Power, Alice Faye, and Don Ameche.

And so the new Regal Cinema opened for the second time in six months, and was to play an important part in the social life of the village. From the issue of 8th June, we note:—

The wall decoration—much commented upon in the original regal, is again a striking feature, and one of the sides depicts a cleverly-executed likeness of Glenbuck House and the loch as it appears from a point on the roadway towards Parishholm.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1938

Births—63. Three less than last year and the lowest ever recorded.

Marriages—39. An increase of almost 81 per cent. over last year.

Deaths—30. Second lowest ever recorded. The lowest was 29 in 1934.

Readers should note that as from 1st January, 1939, all still births must now be registered.

SEEN AND HEARD

It was intimated that the miners were to receive another increase in wages. The increase for January will be ¾d a shift, and is roughly the same as that for December.

A search in the vicinity of Muirkirk for a lost aeroplane took place over the New Year period. It was eventually discovered wrecked on a hillside in the Priesthill district, with the sole occupant dead.

The sudden death of Muirkirk Co-operative Society's managing secretary, Mr William McCall, was announced. Mr McCall had started in the Kirkgreen Branch as a boy, and then the Central Grocery, before taking over as Manager.

Sergeant John Clarkson, Kilmaurs, replaced Sgt. Sharpe at Muirkirk, who has been promoted to the rank of Inspector.

In June Muirkirk experienced the hottest weather for a long time.

A golden wedding anniversary was celebrated by Mr and Mrs John Torbet, 10 Kames Row.

Changes are taking place at Ladeside Park. The old wire rope around the pitch has been replaced by a wooden paling, and this has been placed further back from the touchline. Even the terracing area has been enlarged. There is even talk of building an enclosure.

The Pavilion, that once popular place of entertainment was re-opened in August, under the management of Mr W. Mack. This time the emphasis will be on variety and dramatic entertainment. The Pavilion had been closed for some years.

PREPARING FOR WAR

The dark clouds of war were moving across Europe, and it just seemed like yesterday that the British people had recovered from the Great War, but it was obvious from reading the files that this time, should war occur, then it would be much nearer home.

In March the village inhabitants were issued with gas masks, and soon the wee cardboard box containing the equipment, would be a familiar sight in the village.

Special classes for the training of A.R.P.'s were held in the Furnace Road School.

In June all local men between 20-21 years registered for military service. At Muirkirk Labour Exchange 32 registered, and this number includes twin brothers, as well as several agricultural workers, who will not be called up for training till after the harvest.

There are, of course, many more young men of this age in our district, some of whom are connected with the Territorials and the Lanarkshire Yeomanry. We understand there are about 50 Muirkirkers in the Yeomanry alone.

With the war looming ever closer, Muirkirk played its part by taking over 300 evacuees from the more densely populated areas of the country, mostly from Glasgow.

BRITAIN AT WAR

(7th September Issue)

There seems no need at this hour to go back over the events of the past week-end; the cold fact that Britain is at War is stamped indelibly on the minds of all. It seems that our leaders had no option. Despite the efforts of British statesmen and the leaders of other nations to bring about a peaceful settlement in the Danzig dispute, Hitler shattered the fervent hopes of the whole world by marching into Poland.

It is almost incredible that in this enlightened age the leader of a nation of culture and education should be pursuing a policy of "might is right."

Britain and France have stepped promptly to the aid of Poland, and are facing the issue with resolute purpose and determination. The fight is for freedom—freedom of nations as well as of individuals, and evidently, it had to come.

With the calling up of reserves, etc., a goodly number of local lads have been summoned for duty.

The black-out came into operation, and people were warned to carry their gas-masks at all times. The railway and bus services were severely curtailed. The local cinemas were closed, as were the schools, which were reopened on 12th September.

A warning siren was installed at the Police Office.

It was expected that local organisations would rally round and help the war effort, just as they had done in the Great War.

Food rationing was also brought into operation, and the appropriate ration books were distributed locally, although there appeared to be no scarcity of essential commodities in the village so far.

FOOTBALL (Season 1938-39)

On 3rd August all roads led to Ladeside Park when Muirkirk Junior F.C. made their debut in Western League Football. Providing the opposition was Auchinleck Talbot, who brought with them a support numbering about 600, A crowd of over two thousand greeted the teams. A good game was the outcome. Muirkirk were down 2—0 at half-time, but fought back strongly in the second period, Fullarton reduced the leeway, and despite strong pressure the equaliser eluded them. Nevertheless, a good performance by Muirkirk. The team was:—Telfer; Anderson, Lees; Johnstone, McCall, Nimmo; Dick, Fullarton, Boland, Scott, Murray.

The Club found it rather tough going in the League, and by the New Year had played 18 games, won 6, lost 10, and drawn 2. They fared little better in the Scottish Cup. In the first round they had an encouraging 1—0 victory over Kirkmuirhill. Muirkirk's prolific goal-scorer, Alex. Linwood, was the player who netted, but the departure of Alex. to St. Mirren left a huge vacuum in the Muirkirk front line, and in the 2nd round they went out to Dumbarton Harp by 3—2, when the team was:—Telfer; McLauchlan, Nimmo; McMahan, Baird, Young; Dick, Fullarton, Clark, Robertson, Menzies.

Muirkirk improved after the New Year, and by February had scored over 100 goals in both League and cup games. Then they went seven wins in a trot to push them up the League, gaining at one stage 21 points from a possible 24. However, towards the end of the season they fell away a bit, and the end came with no honours coming to the village, but the local supporters were well pleased with the team's performance in their first year. Following is the League table in March, when Muirkirk had reached the century of goal-scoring:—

	Goals							
	Pd	Wn	Lst	Dn	For	Ag.	Pts.	
Johnstone Ath.	28	19	6	3	78	35	41	
Ardeer Recreation	26	29	6	0	77	42	40	
Glenafton Athletic	29	18	8	3	96	68	39	
Auchinleck Talbot	29	15	8	6	71	67	36	
Muirkirk Juniors	28	15	11	2	100	74	32	
Saltcoats Victoria	21	14	5	2	78	41	30	
Cumnock Juniors	24	13	7	4	61	57	30	
Kello Rovers	29	12	13	4	64	64	28	
Kilbirnie Ladeside	25	10	8	7	58	61	27	
Kilwinning Rangers	25	9	8	8	56	43	26	
Glengarnock Vale	27	11	4	2	81	69	24	
Darvel	29	10	14	4	61	80	24	
Largs Thistle	25	8	10	7	57	67	23	
Dalry Thistle	20	9	7	4	47	47	22	
Winton Rovers	26	7	14	5	80	78	19	
Hurlford United	27	7	15	5	60	81	19	
Troon Athletic	28	7	16	5	53	86	19	
Meadow XI.	25	8	15	2	51	66	18	
Dreghorn Juniors	28	5	19	4	65	104	14	
Irvine Victoria	26	5	18	3	40	101	13	

LET THERE NOT BE LIGHT!

(14th December Issue)

Some of these nights it is indeed a trying business finding one's way about in the blackout, and it is most irritating and disconcerting to have a light flashed in one's face. Users of flashlights should have their lights shaded with tissue paper, and, please note, they should always be pointed downwards. To neglect these regulations is an offence, so if you want to keep on the right side of the law, get your light attended to if you have not already done so.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1939**BIRTHS**

McCULLOCH.—At Ayr on 7th September to Mr and Mrs Robert McCulloch; a son.

HENDERSON.—At Sunderland on 24th October to Vera (Ware), wife of Flight-Sergeant Henderson, J.O., R.A.F.; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

Dr FRANCIS GORDON to MARGARET PATERSON on 28th December, 1938.

ANDREW COATS to GRACE McCALL on 10th January.

DONALD GRAY to NAN LOGGIE on 21st January.

WILLIAM WILSON to LILY CRAVEN on 26th April.

HUBERT WILSON to CATHERINE SEYMOUR on 24th June.

WM. PATERSON to CATHRINE AITCHISON on 7th September.

JAMES WILSON to MARGARET McMANUS on 20th October.

WILLIAM CHAPMAN to MARY McLEAN on 27th October.

STEVEN FETTES to JANETTE FORRESTER on 26th October.

DEATHS

PATERSON.—At Haddington on 31st December, 1938, Samuel Paterson, aged 80 years (late of The Forkings).

BECK.—At 35 Springhill Terrace on 10th January, David Beck, aged 66 years.

McKENZIE.—At 51 New Terrace on 26th January, John McKenzie, aged 20 years.

McMICHAEL.—At Glasgow on 27th January, John McMichael (late of Muirkirk).

FINDLAY.—At Glasgow on 30th January, Annie Torbet (of 34 Springhill Terrace).

THOMSON.—At Isle Cottage on 6th February, Quintin Thomson, aged 80 years.

BRADFORD.—At 9 Park Terrace on 13th February, William Bradford, aged 61 years.

JACK.—At Jack's Buildings on 10th February, John Jack, aged 63.

BURNS.—At Glasgow on 11th March Agnes Higgins, aged 50 years.

McCALL.—At Ardenleigh, Wellwood Street, on 17th March, William McCall (Managing Secretary of Muirkirk Co-op. Society).

McCALL.—At Garronhill House on 20th March, Mary Fulton, aged 67 years.

MILLAR.—At 137 Main Street on 17th March, James Millar, aged 72 years.

DUNN.—At Cumberland on 2nd April, John Dunn, aged 73 years (late of Muirkirk).

DEMPSTER.—At 13 Park Terrace on 23rd April, James Dempster, aged 28 years.

GEBBIE.—At Stableyard on 18th April, Isabella Colthart, aged 79.

SAMSON.—At 7 Bridge Street on 23rd April, William Samson, aged 80 years.

ADAMSON.—In Australia on 12th April, Robert Adamson, aged 33 years.

McLAREN.—At Kilmarnock on 28th April, Angus McLaren, aged 18 years and 11 months (of 6 Torhill).

SAMSON.—At Dalmellington on 20th April, James Samson, aged 45 years (late of Smallburn).

CALDOW.—At 28 Park Terrace on 6th May, Elizabeth Park, aged 69 years.

MURRAY.—At Ayr on 10th May, William Murray, aged 54 years.

DICKSON.—At Wellwood Street on 8th May, Matthew Dickson.

BEGG.—At 7 Springhill Terrace on 20th May, Jeanie Begg, aged 24 years.

LITTLE.—At 8 Wellwood Avenue on 27th May, Elizabeth Steele.
LOWE.—At 3 Old Terrace on 23rd May, Catherine McQueen, aged 62 years.

ANDERSON.—At 68 Linkieburn Square on 3rd June, Mary Brown, aged 77 years.

McKINNON.—At 20 Main Street on 4th June, Barbara Knox, aged 84 years.

MURDOCH.—At Garpel on 2nd June, Andrew Murdoch, aged 67 years.

BROWN.—At Glasgow on 9th June, James Brown, aged 60 years (of Wellwood Street).

HIBBERD.—At Kirkgreen on 11th June, Helen Brown, aged 72 years.

PATERSON.—At 19 Middlefield Drive on 6th June, Robert Paterson, aged 64 years.

ANDERSON.—At Glasgow on 12th June, Nannie Loggie, aged 49 years.

CAMPBELL.—At 26 Old Terrace on 16th June, Jeanie Sharp, aged 92 years

HENDERSON.—At Cairnhill, Muirkirk, on 18th June, Thomas Henderson, aged 85 years.

GRANT.—As the result of an accident on 23rd June, Charles Grant, aged 7 years (of 4 Torhill).

HART.—At Ayr on 1st July, Margaret Begg, aged 23 years of 7 Springhill Terrace.

HOGG.—At 127 Main Street on 4th July, Mary Bradford, aged 60 years.

CROSBIE.—At Entryhead on 23rd July, James Crosbie (late of Glenbuck), aged 82 years.

WILSON.—At Musselburgh on 19th July, David Wilson.

KEAN.—At 15 Kames Row on 13th August, William Kean, aged 54 years.

AIRD.—At Albert Place on 30th August, William Aird, aged 82 years.

MACKIN.—At 19 Springhill Terrace on 31st August, Thomas Mackin, aged 62 years.

BRADFORD.—At 25 Springhill Terrace on 10th September, James Bradford, aged 65 years.

SMITH.—At 12 Wellwood Avenue on 10th September, James Smith, aged 81 years.

NICOL.—At Airdsmill on 30th September, Annie Nicol, aged 71.

McGARRITY.—At Torhill on 30th September, William McGarrity, aged 34 years.

MAXWELL.—At Tarbert on 16th October, Thomas Maxwell, aged 81 years (late Sanitary Inspector, Muirkirk).

McCRORIE.—At Ayr on 20th October, Archibald McCrorie, aged 5 years (of 51 Garronhill).

ANDERSON.—At Bridge Street on 1st November, Elizabeth Irvine, aged 71 years.

LOGGIE.—At Garronhill on 3rd December, William Loggie, aged 71 years.

MORELAND.—At 45 Linkieburn on 1st December, Catherine Gibney, aged 58 years.

CAMPBELL.—At 27 New Terrace on 13th December, James Campbell, aged 68 years.

TORBET.—At 10 Kames Row on 17th December, John Torbet, aged 73 years.

VALLANCE.—At Stableyard on 24th December, William Vallance, aged 75 years.

WILSON.—At Wigton on 17th December, John Wilson, aged 76 years (late of Muirkirk).



Mr JOHN COLTHART

After a rather prolonged process of elimination, the miners of the County made their final choice in August for a successor to the late Mr James Brown, M.P. The result was, as anticipated, a victory for our local candidate, Mr John Colthart, J.P., who headed the voting to defeat Mr George McTurk, Cumnock, another district candidate. Although the voting was close, Mr Colthart had the distinction of topping the poll in each of the four ballots. Mr Colthart takes over his duties at the beginning of September, and our readers will join in wishing him success in his new position. The fact that we now have a County Agent resident in Muirkirk should prove an advantage in many respects to the district miners.

The final figures in the ballot were:—

COLTHART, JOHN	4893
McTURK, GEORGE	4806

MOTOR HIRING.



If you are thinking about a Motor Run during the Summer—

ASK US FOR A PRICE.

We Supply Comfortable Cars to Seat Seven, and Send Reliable Drivers.

CROSBIE,

Main Street, - Muirkirk

'PHONE—MUIRKIRK 32.

Fine Selection of
SUMMER FOODS

AT
KIRKWOOD'S.

TINNED FRUITS—

Pears, Peaches, Pineapple, Fruit Salad.

SALMON—

Fancy Red Salmon, 7½d per tin.

LEMON BARLEY WATER—

makes a Delicious Summer Drink,
6d and 1/9 per bottle.

GRAPEFRUIT JUICE, 1/- per bottle.

COOKED MEATS A SPECIALITY—

Boiled Bacon, Jellied Veal,
Ox Tongue, Corned Meat,
Veal, Ham, and Tongue.

KIRKWOOD'S FOR SATISFACTION.

118 MAIN STREET, MUIRKIRK.

John Trotter, Sons, & Co.,
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desire to draw the special attention of
THOSE WHO ARE REMOVING
INTO NEW HOUSES.

**We can supply you with Anything in
Ordinary Drapery or in Furnishings.**

Note our Prices for a few of the things you may require:—

- FLOORCLOTHS, Ranging from 1/3 per sq. yard.
- WOOD BEDSTEAD, 6x4, with Diamond Mesh Spring, 27/6.
- FIRESEIDE RUGS, from 4/11 to 22/6.
- CURTAIN NETS from 6½d yard.

The Drapery Specialists—

JOHN TROTTER, SONS, & CO.,
Limited.

'Phone—New Cumnock 46,

Muirkirk 38.

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

(1940)

WINTER'S STORM

The snowstorm in 1940 was probably the worst so far this century, and caused havoc, both locally and nation-wide. The "Advertiser" reported the events as follows:—

In Winter's Grip (25th January Issue)

In common with other parts of the country, the weather conditions in this district last week and over the weekend were the most severe for many years. The extremely heavy snow-fall and severe frost almost isolated us from the outside world. Road traffic was impossible, although we understand the impassable parts were outwith the Muirkirk district, as a snow-plough from Ayr went over the main roads on Thursday, and gangs of men were subsequently employed to clear away the snow. Bus services had to be abandoned, but in several instances it is reported that freezing fuel pipes and tanks, and radiators, were the chief troubles. Even rail traffic was affected, and trains, although getting through, were in some cases long overdue. The stormy conditions caused a short stoppage at Kames Colliery, and all outdoor labour suffered, while frozen and burst pipes were also common, causing much inconvenience and discomfort. The district shepherds had arranged to hold a dance in the Ironworks Institute on Friday, but this had to be postponed on account of the weather. The children were the only ones who seemed to get any pleasure out of the cold spell, for toboggans were busy on many of the slopes, and a little skating was indulged in on various frozen surfaces. We learn that the temperature one morning was two degrees below zero, yet a local soldier home on leave says Muirkirk is like a hothouse compared with France!

Glenbuck

Our little village had its full share of the wintry weather, and had it not been for the railway we would have been in a sore predicament. As it was, supplies of foodstuffs and necessities had to be carried from the railway station to the village—quite an ordeal in itself. The meeting of the adult education class on Thursday was cancelled, while a similar fate befell the concert and dance advertised to take place on Friday evening.

Winter's Blast (1st February Issue)

Last month's storms will probably be recalled in years to come as amongst the worst ever experienced by local residents. Roads impassable through huge drifts of snow, railways blocked for days on end with engines engulfed in the snow, men travelling on horseback for necessities, postmen carrying the mail for miles through the snow, church services abandoned, workers idle, schools closed, travellers marooned for days—these were all features which 1940 had already brought, and, we hope, the worst we'll see for many years to come.

22nd February Issue

As a result of the storm the railway line at Muirkirk was blocked for eighteen days. This, we are assured, is easily a record for this district. Records are made to be broken, but in this case the railway officials especially will be hoping that this one stands for all time.

20th June Issue

Believe it or not, when workmen were shifting ashes in Muirkirk the other day they discovered a patch of snow three inches deep.

THE WAR

Not surprisingly, very little was reported about the war in Europe, there being put in place at that time an embargo restricting the reporting of incidents from which the enemy might gain an advantage. All the road signposts were removed, and monuments and shops, etc., with the word "Muirkirk" showing had to be covered up. Even "Muirkirk" on the Victory Park Gates War Memorial was blotted out. From the files we cull the following:—

Along with other sirens in the Western counties, the local air-raid warning apparatus was tested out on Tuesday afternoon (January 23). The warning and all-clear signals were heard distinctly over quite a wide area, including Glenbuck

Two gentlemen from the wastepaper collecting authorities visited Muirkirk this week (March 7) and expressed themselves at being highly satisfied with the progress made by our young collectors. Once the present stock has been removed, it is expected that "the hunt" will be resumed with new vigour. Wastepaper and cardboard for the war effort should be carefully kept. The Band Hut in Meuse Lane was used for the storage of this commodity.

Meat rationing commences on Monday first, 11th March, from which date all adult persons will be allowed 1/10 worth of meat per week. Every person above six years of age is treated as an adult in this case, and children under that age are allotted 11d worth. Thus it will be seen that the quantity of meat that can be purchased depends on the price of the particular cuts desired.

We understand the local A.R.P. Wardens will be round shortly (April) to make a census of the respirators issued some time ago, and to examine them for defects. Most folks will probably have seen little of their gas masks since they were issued, but you can help the Wardens in their task by having your respirator handy when they call.

The registration of men of 25 and those who have now reached 20 years of age took place on Saturday (April). At Muirkirk 38 men registered, including two conscientious objectors.

The "Dig for Victory" slogan is having its effect in Muirkirk in common with other places. Many who were hitherto apathetic to gardening have turned over their plots, while some of the older schoolboys are also cultivating some plots under the supervision of their teachers. There were plots in the Victory Park and behind the houses in Main Street.

In May, 27 young men registered at Muirkirk, they being in the 26's and those who had reached the age of 20.

In April the local air raid wardens and ambulance units held a full dress rehearsal on Sunday when a mock air raid took place at Kirkgreen. There were "casualties" at various spots, and these were quickly attended to by the first-aid men and removed by ambulance. A goodly number of spectators followed the proceedings with evident interest, and the rehearsal was carried through without a hitch.

TO OUR READERS

SCARCITY OF PAPER

Owing to the scarcity of paper and consequent rise in price (newsprint is now three times its normal price), we are reluctantly compelled to raise the price of the "Advertiser" to ONE PENNY per Copy after this issue (23rd May).

THE LATE MR JAMES G. RICHMOND

The death was announced of Muirkirk's former Headmaster, Mr Richmond on 25th November, at Ayr. Coming from Edinburgh in the late 80's, Mr Richmond speedily made his presence felt not only in his school work, but also in the musical and athletic activities in the community. A pupil-teacher himself in his early days, he assisted in training many able teachers who would be first to admit the benefit of his influence and inspiration. For a long period of years he gave faithful service as organist and choirmaster of the Parish Church, founding the original Muirkirk Orchestra, and conducting musical, choral, and other similar societies with unflagging enthusiasm and success. Various singers whom he helped to train gained the highest honours.

When he retired in 1929, he had spent over 40 years in the teaching profession.

Mr Richmond was always a keen sportsman, playing cricket with the Muirkirk Cricket Club, and later taking up golf with his usual energy and vigour. For many years before he retired from active work he guided and inspired successive school-boys' teams to win numerous trophies in the Muirkirk and Cumnock districts, and made Muirkirk famous as a veritable football nursery.

THE LATE REV. FATHER JOYCE

The congregation of St. Thomas' R.C. Church, Muirkirk, have suffered a heavy loss through the death, on 2nd December, of their reverend pastor, the Rev. Father Joyce. For the long period of twenty-two years Father Joyce had been priest, friend, and comforter of not only the people of St. Thomas's, for his wide sympathy extended very much farther afield. In spite of the fact that he had poor health for a considerable number of years, Father Joyce faithfully carried on his work here till a few weeks ago, when his strength finally gave way. After the Requiem Mass at St. Thomas's on Wednesday morning, at which Bishop Mellon and a choir of priests were present, the funeral took place to Edinburgh—Father Joyce's birthplace.

Father Moriarty was appointed to succeed Father Joyce.

VITAL STATISTICS (1939)

Births—79. 16 more than previous year.

Marriages—29. 10 less than 1938.

Deaths—52. An increase of 22 over the previous year, and the highest recorded since 1921.

RAINFALL—1939

The total rainfall for the year was 39.55 inches, as compared with 52.11 inches the previous year. As in 1938 November was the wettest month with 9.18 inches, which is the highest rainfall yet recorded for this month, and February, March, and July came next with 4.81, 4.02, and 4 inches of rain respectively. May, with .56 of an inch, was the driest month of the year. May had 23 dry days, August had 22, September had 21, and the other months fell from 18 in December to only 4 in November. The heaviest rainfall for any single day was recorded in August, when, in the space of three hours, rain fell to the extent of 1.26 inches. The total rainfall for the whole month was 2.83 inches.

It may make these figures more interesting to readers to mention that an inch of rain may be described as a gallon of water spread over a surface of nearly two square feet, or about 100 tons per acre.

CO-OPERATIVE DIVIDEND

2/9 per £

SEEN AND HEARD

Robert Kay Girvan, a roadsman, was killed by a fall of coal at Kames Colliery.

Mr John McMillan, Manager at the Gas Works for the past 12 years, was transferred to Lasswade. Mr Sheach from Beith was appointed in his place.

Mr Thomas Woodburn, plumber, had a miraculous escape when he fell off a two-storey building in Smallburn, sustaining only minor injuries.

At a coming-of-age party for Miss Margaret Bain, 31 Glasgow Road, four generations were represented—Mrs Margaret Bain, her son (Mr George M. Bain), his family, and his grandchild.

Cyclist John McKay, Garronhill, clocked the fastest time of the year in a 25-mile time trial at Hamilton—1 hour 2 minutes and 42 seconds.

James R. Wilson won the Dux Medal at Muirkirk H.G. School.

THE OLD OAK TREE

An oak tree being sawn at the local Works of Messrs Baird & Dalmellington Ltd., was found to contain a length of iron chain completely embedded in the trunk. The chain was discovered buried about five inches inside the wood, and it is surmised that it had been there for about seventy years. Stones and even horseshoes have been discovered by the workmen in the tree trunks before, sometimes at the expense of a saw, but the chain rather beats the lot, so to speak. Happily it was discovered before the trunk got the length of the circular saw.

OBITUARY

Willie Wallace, a well-known personality in the world of sport, passed away at his home at Ashieburn on 18th September, at the comparatively early age of 57. He had been in indifferent health for some time. In his younger days Willie was a popular figure on the football field, being a member of the Glenbuck Cherrypicker's team, while he was also one of the famous five from Glenbuck who were seldom defeated in five-a-side tournaments. He was highly respected both on and off the field, and a general favourite with all who knew him.

MINING ACCIDENT

Three men—Gavin Lang (Manager of the Colliery), David Beck, and James Menzies, were buried by a fall of coal from the roof while underground at Kames Colliery on 11th October. It was about an hour later when they were extricated, but, happily, there were no serious injuries. Mr Lang sustained facial injuries, while the others escaped with bruises.

THE MINER'S DREAM

A collier stood at Heaven's gate,
His face was pale and thin,
He knocked, and asked St. Peter
If he'd kindly let him in;
St. Peter said: "What did you do
Before the earth you quit?"
Said he—"I worked for fifty years
Down in a Muirkirk pit."
The golden gates then opened
As St. Peter pressed the bell,
Said he—"Come in and take a harp,
You've seen enough of Hell!"

GEORGE ARNOTT

FOOTBALL (Season 1939-40)

For the new season, Ladeside Park had been re-drained, and this has proved to be a big improvement, and Muirkirk Juniors got off to a good start with a fine 6—0 win over Troon. Muirkirk team:—Telfer; Clive, Rankine; N. McNeil, Nelson, Mutter; A. Dick, Fullarton, Sproat, McCulloch, Langan.

That season two new clubs were admitted to the Western League, Annbank and Kilmarnock Juniors.

Muirkirk lost 6—2 to Vale of Clyde in the 1st round of the Scottish Cup, and overall it was to be a very frustrating time for junior football. The outbreak of war in September looked like the end of Ayrshire football, but at a special meeting of the Western League it was decided to carry on, but to split the League into two sections—North and South. The North Section was composed of 14 clubs, while the South Section was made up with the following nine Clubs:—Kello Rovers, Glenafton Athletic, Cumnock Juniors, Muirkirk Juniors, Annbank Juniors, Auchinleck Talbot, Hurlford United, Kilmarnock Juniors, and Darvel. The two leading Clubs in each Section would play for the Championship.

However, the Clubs found it difficult to field a consistent team with a lot of the young blood being called into the Armed Forces. In an effort to alleviate the problem the S.J.F.A. passed a rule that allowed senior players to be reinstated into the junior ranks.

Then the winter weather struck with a vengeance, and from 1st January to 14th March only one game was played by Muirkirk, and it was 20th April before they had a home game, against Blantyre Celtic in the West of Scotland Cup, which they lost 5—3.

A disappointing season for Muirkirk, ending in a 3—2 defeat by Dalry Thistle in the semi-final of the Moore Trophy.

From the 27th June Issue:—

The small Committee with the task of looking after the affairs of Muirkirk Junior F.C. have co-operated with the Supporters' Club, and with Mr Steve Bradford as President, Mr Robert Dempster as Secretary, and Mr William Murdoch as Treasurer, will carry on till the time when football will come into its own again.

B. STEIN

commenced
LADIES' HAIRDRESSING
At 47 Smallburn

The three local plumbers,

ROBERTYOUNG & SON,**THOMAS WOODBURN, and****ALEX. LITTLE**

Announced the price of Chimney Sweeping

as follows:—

ORDINARY CHIMNEY, 1/6

KITCHEN RANGES AND

INTERIOR GRATES WITH FLUE, 2/3.

WM. ALSTON & SON, Horse Shoers and Implement Makers,

Beg to announce their Ruling Prices as
from this Date—

Shoeing of Farm and Heavy Van Horses,
10/6 per Set.

Pony Charges according to Size.

All Classes of Farm Implements and
Jobbing at Lowest Possible Prices.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

How to Act if the Raiders come.**WHEN YOU HEAR****A WAILING BLAST**

on a Siren, or blast on a Hooter,
or sharp blasts on Police Whistles, it
is an Air Raid Warning. Take
shelter.

A CONTINUOUS NOTE

on a Siren or a Hooter, lasting Two
Minutes, it means All Clear.

HAND RATTLES—

This means a Gas Attack.

HAND BELLS—

Gas Danger is over.

LONDON, MIDLAND, AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY.

Evening Excursions

(Weather favourable).

On SATURDAY, 24th August.

To HELENSBURGH.

		RETURN FARES.	
		p.m.	s. d.
Muirkirk,	- - leave	4.30	2 3
Glenbuck,	- - "	4.35	2 0
Inches	- - "	4.45	2 0
Douglas West,	- - "	4.50	2 0

Returning from Helensburgh at 10 p.m.

To AYR.

		RETURN FARES.	
		p.m.	s. d.
Muirkirk.....	leave	4.50	1 0
Cronberry	"	5.2	0 9

Returning from Ayr at 10.15 p.m.

Juveniles under 14 Years—HALF FARE.

Tickets valid only by Trains specified.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1940**BIRTHS**

NICOL.—At Kilmarnock on 18th March to Mr and Mrs Alexander Nicol; a daughter.

ROWE.—At Dumbarton on 4th October to Mr and Mrs Ed. Rowe; a daughter

MARRIAGES

ANDREW PALMER to MARGARET BARBOUR on 29th December, 1939.

ALEXANDER GALBRAITH to MARGARET MILLAR on 24th January.

JOHN WALLACE to ELIZABETH McKEE on 20th March.

RICHARD DAVIDSON to MARION HASTIE on 27th April.

WILLIAM BROWN to ELLA McINTYRE in New Zealand.

JAMES McCONNACHIE to JESSIE WALLACE on 1st June.

JOHN BARCLAY to EUPHEMIA McKENZIE on 12th July.

KENNETH DAVIDSON to ISOBEL GORDON on 16th July.

JOHN PETT to JESSIE ADAMSON on 25th June.

DAVID STEELE to JESSIE McCRINDLE on 5th August.

HUGH PRINGLE to ELIZABETH WILSON on 31st July.

WILLIAM BARR to MARY DOUGLAS on 7th August.

JAMES WARDROP to MAISIE LAIDLAW on 12th August.

FERGUS BLACK to EDITH DA'PRATO on 18th September.

JAMES McCULLOCH to MARGARET BANKS on 2nd October.

JAMES THOMSON to ISABELLA ROWE on 17th December.

DEATHS

SHAW.—In Australia on 12th November, 1939, Janet Blackwood.

McCARTHY.—At 91 Main Street on 9th January, Janet Martin.

McCRONE.—At 25 Garronhill on 5th January, Margaret McCallum, aged 65 years.

WILSON.—At Wigtown on 17th January, Janet McLean, aged 76 years.

STITT.—At Glasgow on 26th January, James Stitt, aged 67 years (of Torhill).

KAY GIRVAN.—As the result of an accident at Kames Colliery on 6th February, Robert Kay Girvan (of 69 Main Street).

ROBB.—At 18 Old Terrace on 28th January, Mary Robb, aged 43 years.

BAIRD.—At 87 Main Street on 21st February, John Baird, aged 63 years.

MURRAY.—At 108 Main Street on 17th February, Wee Anna, aged 3 years.

CHAPMAN.—At 32 Springhill Terrace on 26th February, Janet Dalziel, aged 55 years.

GREENHOW.—At 40 Springhill Terrace on 18th February, William Greenhow, aged 74 years.

WOODBURN.—At Glasgow on 23rd February, David Woodburn (of 14 Park Terrace).

ANDERSON.—At Helenslea, Main Street, on 29th February, Jessie Love, aged 46 years.

PARKER.—At Railway Buildings, Southside, on 10th March, William Park, aged 16 years.

ARTHUR.—At 4 Main Street on 27th March, Robert Arthur, aged 71 years.

McGARRY.—At 99 Main Street on 30th March, Rose Gibney.

ROSS.—At Cumnock on 17th April, Robert Ross, aged 78 years.

DAVIDSON.—At Spieslack Row, Glenbuck, on 29th April, Mary Scott, aged 76 years.

DAVIDSON.—At 10 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 30th April, Jemima Clark.

HODGE.—At Glasgow on 24th April, William Hodge, Jeweller (late of Muirkirk).

LOVE.—At Patna on 30th April, Jeanie Love, aged 48 years.

HARKNESS.—In U.S.A. on 24th March, James Harkness (late of Main Street).

BARRIE.—At Glasgow on 18th May, Thomas Barrie, aged 36 years (of 18 Park Terrace).

MITCHELL.—At 123 Main Street on 25th May, Mary McLeod, aged 77 years.

DEVLIN.—At 92 Main Street on 7th June, Elizabeth Davidson, aged 67 years.

GUTHRIE.—At Norwood, Wellwood Street, on 13th June, James Guthrie, aged 91 years.

IRVINE.—At Ayr on 9th June, Mary Irvine, aged 48 years.

BELL.—At Stirling on 18th June, John Bell, aged 61 years (late of Smallburn).

HENDRY.—At 6 Garronhill on 30th June, Janet Irvine, aged 82 years.

MURDOCH.—At 91 Main Street on 30th June, Janet McIntyre, aged 92 years.

JACKSON.—At Ayr on 29th July, Margaret Jackson.

HOGG.—Died at sea on 8th August, John Hogg, grandson of the late John Hogg, Baker.

PEACOCK.—At 12 Kames Row on 12th August, Matthew Peacock, aged 68 years.

HALLIDAY.—At 33 Main Street on 16th August, Jane Halliday.

WILSON.—At Glasgow on 30th September, James Wilson, aged 42 years.

RAE.—At 132 Main Street on 27th September, Andrew Rae, aged 77 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Burnside, Muirkirk, on 9th October, Alexander Dempster, aged 63 years.

WILSON.—At Hillside, Muirkirk, on 27th October, Janet Affleck, aged 87 years.

BRADFORD.—At a Hospital on 5th November, Annie Park, aged 59 years (of Wellwood Avenue).

KELLY.—At Glasgow on 1st November, Elizabeth Alexander, aged 46 years.

RICHMOND.—At Ayr on 25th November, James Richmond.

STACEY.—At Kirkgreen, Muirkirk, on 2nd December, Margaret Shields, aged 58 years.

WILSON.—At 2 Railway Buildings, Smallburn, on 3rd December, Thomas Wilson.

SHAW.—At Whitburn on 8th December, William Shaw.

WALLACE.—At Glasgow on 19th December, John Wallace, aged 26 years (of Glenburn, Muirkirk).

The constant drip of water
Wears away the hardest stone;
The constant gnaw of Towser
Masticates the toughest bone;
The constant wooing lover
Carries off the blushing bride,
And the constant advertiser
Is the one who turns the tide.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

(1941)

WAR NEWS

A War Weapons week was held in Muirkirk when residents were asked to help by purchasing Savings Certificates or Defence Bonds. The local target set was £8,000, but this was exceeded in the first four days. The Local Committee then raised their target to £12,000. Their confidence was fully justified, and for the seven days over £14,000 was raised—a highly creditable result. Here are the day-to-day figures:—

Saturday	£4967	4	6
Monday	1528	15	0
Tuesday	1080	13	0
Wednesday	721	2	6
Thursday	867	5	0
Friday	815	5	6
Saturday	4329	13	1
Total	£14,309	19	7

Clothing, footwear, and knitting wool were rationed as from 1st June, as was margarine.

AIR RAID SHELTERS (August Issue)

At long last work has commenced on the roofs of our public air-raid shelters. Naturally, we hope, they won't be needed, but there is nothing like being prepared. At any rate, our roofless shelters were becoming a bit of an eye-sore.

THE LATE MR HUGH BELL

The death has been announced of Mr Hugh Bell, one of Muirkirk's best known and most popular sons. He took a practical interest in various forms of sport. As a young man he was a footballer, but graduated comparatively early to green bowling, and was a past president of the local club. For a number of years he was one of the principal skips, and as skip of "The Big Four" took part in many notable games. In the game of draughts he was a member of the Baird Institute team that won the Championship of Ayrshire, and such was his prowess in the silent game that he could take part in several games at one and the same time, one of the boards being unseen to him. He was an ardent Freemason, and a Past Master of the local Lodge, and at the time of his demise he held the office of Past Preceptor of the Order of the Temple. He possessed a mine manager's certificate of the first class, and for some years up till the close of Grasshill Pit was manager there.

COLLIERY CANTEEN

As from Monday first (2nd September) Kames Colliery Canteen will be in operation, and workers can have their lunch supplied each day at eighteenpence a time. The innovation should prove very popular, and already 420 men have signified their intention of patronising the Canteen. The food supplied does not, of course, come under the individual rationing scheme, and is thus supplementary to the weekly ration. Consequently, housewives who undoubtedly must have had a trying time in making up pit pieces, will welcome the introduction of the Canteen.

N.B.—The writer can remember the "Pit Pieces" being made up in the Co-operative premises near to the bakehouse before the Canteen was opened.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1940

Births—60. The lowest on record.

Marriages—44. The same as 1936, and with that year's total the highest since 1923.

Deaths—46. Normal, though a decrease from the previous year.

THE LATE MR WILLIAM HUNTER

On 14th April Muirkirk lost one of her oldest and most respected sons in Mr William Hunter, Kirkgreen Cottage. Mr Hunter was eighty years of age, and before his retirement some years ago was an engineman with the local Company, being engaged at "The Chemical" when the Ironworks closed down.

For many years he was a staunch supporter of the Brethren here, and although latterly afflicted with rheumatism in his legs, he always made it a point to be in his place at the Gospel Hall, even though he should be conveyed thither by 'bus.

Willie was full of years and service, and is survived by his helpmate in life, two daughters, and a host of friends who regret his departure.

Welltrees Disaster

The sad event recalls the local tragedy of 1867, when, as the result of the railway points being maliciously tampered with opposite Welltrees on a dark stormy night, the engine left the rails and embedded itself in Welltrees Burn. Both enginemen, Hunter and Blyth, lost their lives, Blyth being drowned, and Hunter (Willie's father) succumbing next day through being badly scalded with steam.

TO OUR READERS

RATIONING OF NEWSPRINT

The Rationing Committee of Newsprint Supply have circularised all newspapers that an immediate reduction in the consumption of newsprint is necessary, and to meet this reduction in the case of the "Advertiser" we are required to make a flat rate reduction of ten per cent on our present consumption, effective as from 16th March. It is also stated that a further reduction by all newspapers will be necessary very soon, probably in the middle of April.

To meet this situation we must either reduce the circulation or the size of the paper! Oh, help!

And in the July 24 Issue:—

Owing to the strain of Government advertisements and other important information on the Food and other Fronts, with our limited space we find it impossible to give any lengthy reports of functions, etc., and it may be mentioned that owing to the rationing of newsprint we are not allowed to increase either the size of the sheet or the circulation. We trust our readers will therefore bear with us in these circumstances.

SHOOTING FATALITY

A wave of sadness spread over the village on Thursday last (17th July), when it became known that a young woman had lost her life in the most poignant circumstances. The tragic accident occurred at 34 Kames Row, when Private John England, a young soldier home on leave, accidentally discharged his rifle, and his 21-year-old wife (Mary Boland) received injuries from which she died. Widespread sympathy has been expressed for the young husband and relatives so tragically bereaved.

BAIRD INSTITUTE

This popular place of sport and leisure (as well as the Library) continued to be well attended. The office-bearers in 1941 were:—

President	Mr James Bell
Secretary	Mr James Samson
Treasurer	Mr W. Welsh
Convener	Mr B. McDade

BRIDGE HEIGHTENED

For some time past local opinion had tried to have the stone parapet bridge which crosses the River Ayr at Furnace Road heightened to make it more safe. Then with the black-out coming into force, it was felt that the low height of the wall was too dangerous to be negotiated in the dark. This was rectified in November when the parapet was raised by a further one foot nine inches, and should now be more of a safeguard.

SEEN AND HEARD

Robert Dempster (58), coal packer, was buried by a fall of coal while underground at Kames Colliery, and died three days later as a result of his injuries

Two Muirkirk prisoners-of-war have found each other in an internment camp in Germany. They are William Caldwell and James McDonald.

The estate of the late Rev. Father Joyce of St. Thomas's Church amounted to £7,219.

Willie Shankly and Tom Brown were in the Scottish team against England at Hampden Park.

Mr William Hunter, Crown Bar, died suddenly on his premises in May.

Mr and Mrs William Caldwell, Douglas Place, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in June.

The Dux Medallist at Muirkirk H.G. School was Elizabeth Logie.

Trooper Robert Hamilton had been posted missing from April, but a postcard from himself arrived in July with the news he had been taken prisoner in Germany.

George Arnott (Mr Harry Caldwell to us) has honourable mention in the "Evening Times" of 14th October, as being one of the old-timers of music halls, and when occasion demands, can still serve up the droll songs which he used to sing with no little success at the old Britannia, and latterly at the Palace when the South Side held its own in the forefront of variety. Harry, of course, was manager of the Pavilion in Muirkirk for some years.

The death was announced in October of the Rev. W. Greig Alexander, minister of Wellwood Church, Muirkirk. Mr Alexander been in charge of Wellwood Church since 1929.

Another Golden Wedding took place in Muirkirk in October—the worthy couple being Mr and Mrs James Menzies, Garronhill, who were married at Glenbuck in 1891. Mr Menzies resided at Glenbuck for 45 years, and was one of the footballing stalwarts of the village.

Lance-Corporal Robert Jack (28) of Jack's Buildings was accidentally killed in an accident in England.

Mr Duncan McSkimming was appointed caretaker at the Baird Institute

CO-OPERATIVE DIVIDEND

2/6 per £

ORCHESTRA FORMED (Feb. 20 Issue)

There was quite a representative attendance of musicians at a meeting held in the H.G. School on Tuesday evening. The meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the formation of an orchestra in Muirkirk, and, as quite a number of players had expressed their interest in the project, it was decided to form an orchestra, and to start practising next week. Mr John Devine was appointed conductor, Mr W. Bradford secretary, and Mr James Millar treasurer; and it is hoped to have a combination of around twenty instrumentalists.

THE EAGLE HAS FLOWN

Passing time brings changes, and another link with the past has just been severed with the relinquishing of the public house licence for the Eagle Tavern, Smallburn. For close on eighty years the Rennie family have served their patrons, first in Rennie's Row, now disappeared, and then in the present premises in the lane, and many a tired miner trudging home from the pit was glad to drop in for a breather and refreshment after a hard shift. The Tavern would also play its part in the social life of the menfolk of the village, and was an extremely popular venue in the days when the sports were held at The Holm. In recent years the demolition of old buildings in Smallburn and the transfer of inhabitants to other parts of the village has left the Tavern more or less isolated. Whether there is less "drouth" nowadays or not is, of course, open to question, but the fact remains that quite a number of licenses have been dropped within memory—the licence held by Grocer Murdoch, the Douglas Arms, Railway Tavern, Black Bottle, and now the Eagle Tavern. Next?

John Trotter, Sons, & Co., Limited,

desire to draw the special attention of
THOSE WHO ARE REMOVING
INTO NEW HOUSES.

**We can supply you with Anything in
Ordinary Drapery or in Furnishings.**

Note our Prices for a few of the things you may require:—

FLOORCLOTHS, Ranging from 1/3 per sq. yard.
WOOD BEDSTEAD, 6×4, with Diamond Mesh
Spring, 27/6.

FIRESIDE RUGS, from 4/11 to 22/6.

CURTAIN NETS from 6½d yard.

The Drapery Specialists—

**JOHN TROTTER, SONS, & CO.,
Limited.**

'Phone—New Cumnock 46,

Muirkirk 38.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1941**BIRTHS**

HAMILTON.—At Fleming Cottage, Smallburn, to Aircraftsman and Mrs Hamilton; a son.

NICOL.—At Picture House, Muirkirk, on 5th April to Mr and Mrs Nicol; a son.

DEENEY.—At 2 Kames Row on 20th April to Mr and Mrs Michael Deeney; a daughter.

DAVIDSON.—At Schoolhouse, Muirkirk, on 6th July to Mr and Mrs Kenneth Davidson; a son.

HUHTALA.—In U.S.A. on 8th July to Mr and Mrs H. Huhtala; a son.

PETT.—At Surrey on 23rd September to Mr and Mrs Richard Pett; a son.

MARRIAGES

JOSEPH HUNTER to MARGARET DUNLOP on 31st December, 1940.

WILLIAM MACLEAN to HANNAH MILLAR on 23rd January.

THOMAS SCOREY to ISABEL WEIR on 28th February.

DAVID TAYLOR to JESSIE TRAIN on 8th March.

WILLIAM BEGGS to MARION GORDON on 2nd April.

WILLIAM ANDERSON to MARION MILLAR on 25th April.

JOHN HAMILTON to MARGARET MORRISON on 6th June.

JAMES CLEMENT to ANNIE DEMPSTER on 24th June.

ROBERT TAYLOR to ELIZABETH AIRD on 15th July.

JAMES McCULLOCH to CHARLOTTE WARRILLOW on 18th July.

GEORGE VALLANCE to ANNIE ANDERSON on 16th July.

ERIC CAMPBELL to ISA WALLACE on 25th July.

JOHN McPATE to NAN HUNTER on 7th August

S. MACRAE to MARGARET BARRIE on 1st September.

WILLIAM RITCHIE to MARY McINALLY on 10th October.

ANDREW SAMSON to HELEN DALZIEL on 10th October.

JAMES McINTOSH to JANE BONE on 12th December.

THOMAS ROWE to MARY CURRAGH on 17th December.

DEATHS

HUNTER.—By enemy action while on duty in England, Nurse Jessie (Nettie) Hunter (of Glasgow Road).

BROWN.—At Cairn House on 9th January, Rosina Oram.

FLANIGAN.—At Co-operative Buildings, Glenbuck, on 10th January, Peter Flanigan, aged 77 years.

HIGGINS.—At Bemersyde on 19th January, Wee James, aged 9 years (of Garronhill).

SLOAN.—At Ayr on 16th January, Margaret Sloan.

DEMPSTER.—At Glasgow on 6th February, Robert Dempster aged 58 years (of 30 New Terrace).

HANNAH.—At Ayr on 9th February, Mary Hannah, aged 63 years. (of Kirkburnhead).

PEARSON.—At Glasgow on 17th February, William Pearson (late of Ardenleigh, Muirkirk).

CROSBIE.—At Glasgow on 19th February, Robert Crosbie, aged 54 years (of 21 Middlefield Drive).

CLOSE.—At Aylesbury on 3rd March, Robert Close.

MILLAR.—At Albert Place on 3rd March, Janet Smith, aged 68 years.

BARR.—At Morton Place on 12th March, Thomas Barr, aged 44.

BRADFORD.—At Yorkhill on 14th March, Alexander Bradford, aged 6 years (of 21 Victoria Buildings).

KERR.—At Stobhill on 25th March, Thomas Kerr, aged 58 years.

SHIRKIE.—At Skares on 18th March, Lena Dornan, aged 46 years (of Victoria Buildings).

HENDRY.—In South Africa on 26th March, William Hendry.

DEMPSTER.—At 14 Bridge Street on 28th March, Hugh Dempster, aged 46 years.

ADAMSON.—At Moffat on 9th April, Ellen Johnstone, aged 9 years.

HUNTER.—At Kirkgreen Cottage on 14th April, William Hunter, aged 80 years.

BICKERTON.—At Ayr on 7th May, John Bickerton, aged 2 years 10 months.

WEIR.—At 12 Middlefield Drive on 3rd May, James Weir, aged 73 years.

FLANAGAN.—At 17 Park Terrace on 14th May, Marion Muir, aged 77 years.

HYSLOP.—At Furnace Road on 14th May, Janet Weir, aged 86 years.

SCOTT.—In U.S.A. on 22nd November, 1940, Archibald Scott, aged 46 years (late of Muirkirk).

WALKER.—At Ayr on 28th June, James Walker, aged 4 years (of 46 Springhill Terrace).

McKEAN.—At 7 Wellwood Avenue on 9th June, Thomas McKean, aged 74 years.

SAMSON.—In New York on 22nd April, Hugh Samson (late of Glasgow Road).

LOGGIE.—At Glasgow on 3rd July, Helen Stevenson, aged 54 years (of Cairnlea, Muirkirk).

SMITH.—At Glasgow on 20th July, David Smith, aged 37 years.

GOLDIE.—At Glasgow on 3rd August, Christina Alston (of Smithfield, Muirkirk).

SEYMOUR.—At Ayr on 3rd August, Cornelius Seymour, aged 59 years.

MAIDER.—At Ayr on 23rd September, Adam Maider, aged 73 years.

HUNTER.—At Cumnock on 27th September, Robert Hunter (Solicitor).

BARRIE.—At 123 Main Street on 2nd October, James Barrie.

CALDOW.—At 23 Park Terrace on 29th September, Agnes Caldwell, aged 10 years.

QUEEN.—At Kirkconnel on 2nd October, Archibald Queen, aged 46 years.

MARSHALL.—At Manchester on 6th October, Grace Violet, aged 39 years.

DOWIE.—At Burnside, Muirkirk, on 19th October, Agnes Dowie.

DALZIEL.—At Yorkhill on 25th October, Margaret Dalziel, aged 1 year and 4 months (of 137 Main Street).

STEELE.—At Kames Institute on 27th October, Robert Steele.

PEDEN.—At 40 Smallburn on 2nd December, Jean Stevenson.

JACK.—Accidentally killed in England, Robert Jack, aged 22 years (of Jack's Buildings).

ROWE.—At Inglewood on 18th December, Christina Clark, aged 56 years.

LINDSAY.—At Goring-by-Sea on 15th December, John Lindsay (of Glenbuck).

ROBB.—At Ayr on 19th December, John Robb.

THOMSON.—At Baird Institute on 20th December, Agnes Gilchrist, aged 63 years.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

(1942)

**TO OUR READERS
AND ADVERTISERS**

At this time of day all are aware of the great scarcity of paper, the bulk of which came from abroad previous to the war.

All newspapers to-day get only a ration, and we are now informed of a second ten per cent. cut in our ration to commence next week; as a consequence we shall have to print fewer copies of the "Advertiser."

How best to distribute the available copies with as little disturbance as possible has been exercising our mind. To our knowledge some of our patrons procure two, three, and four copies weekly, and, in the meantime, we suggest that only one copy be bought by each household, and thus let the available copies go round. It is hinted there may be a further cut, in which case we'll meet the situation when it arrives.

Then, not only is there rationing of paper, but the Ministry of Supply have now agreed to allow only a percentage of advertising space in each newspaper, and to-day we commence a war economy sheet, the set-up being slightly altered. It will thus be seen that late-comers with advertisements may and may not be lucky; it all depends on how the quota stands. In any case our readers and advertisers can depend on us doing our best for them.

N.B.—To overcome the difficulties caused by the restriction, the proprietor changed the make-up of the paper from three columns of 2½ inches per page to that of four columns of 2 inches per page; at the same time reducing both the inside and outside margins, and it seemed to work wonders.

WARSHIP WEEK

Muirkirk was asked once again to help buy a warship by contributing to National Savings and Defence Bonds, and the target set the village was £7,500. The accumulative totals were as follows:—

Saturday	£760	0	0
Monday	1919	11	6
Tuesday	2301	3	6
Wednesday	2720	7	6
Thursday	4013	14	6
Friday	7488	0	6
Saturday	9207	9	6

INVASION COMMITTEE

In keeping with other populous area, an Invasion Committee has been set up in Muirkirk. The local members are:—

Chairman	Mr John Colthart, J.P.
Secretary	Rev. Father Moriarty
Sergeant	John Clarkson
Lieut.	S. C. Matthews
Head Warden	Mr George Pringle
Leading Fireman	William Rowe.

CO-OP. DIVIDEND — 2/6 Per £

LOCAL STATISTICS, 1941

Births—89. As against 60 in 1940.
Marriages—32. There were 44 the previous year.
Deaths—33. Against 46 in 1940.

GOLDEN DOUBLE WEDDING

During 1941 an old Muirkirk family made history for longevity of married life. Two daughters of the late James Reid and his wife (Margaret Yule), who for years lived in Glasgow Road, celebrated their golden weddings. Janet Reid married James Goldie in June, 1891, and Lily Reid married John Gibson in December, 1981. The celebration took the form of a joint wedding on 31st December, and a most remarkable feature was that, with the exception of the parents' decease, no break had taken place in the family since the weddings took place. The Reid family is composed of four daughters and one son, and all have been spared to live to pension age, one daughter (Mrs Girvan) still living in Muirkirk. The James Goldie mentioned above is a brother of John and George still in Muirkirk.

BEREAVEMENT

One of the most impressive funerals seen in Muirkirk for many a long day took place on Friday (13th November), when the mortal remains of John Colgan, the young man who met his death in the Colliery accident on the Tuesday previous, were laid to rest in Muirkirk Centenary. The Home Guard, under the command of Lieut. S. C. Matthews, attended, and there was also a large concourse of mourners. The cortege proceeded from St. Thomas' Church to the Cemetery, led by the Pipe Band under Pipe-Major D. Hendry, playing the old Scottish lament, "The Flo'ers o' the Forest." Six of the Guardsmen acted as pall-bearers. At the graveside the service was conducted by Father Moriarty, and a Home Guard firing party, under Sgt. Smith, fired three volleys, while a bugler sounded "The Last Post" and "Reveille."

THE OLD CATTLE SHOW

Old institutions die hard, and, although many an eventful year has passed since Muirkirk could boast its annual cattle Show, we find that the holiday which followed it on the Saturday is still observed in some quarters.

Listening to our elders recalling these far-off days leaves no doubt that Muirkirk Cattle Show was a very important event on the local calendar. On the morning of the Show the village was agog with the farmers from the Parish bringing their sheep, cattle, and horses to parade before the judges. The event was usually held at the Holm at the foot of Smallburn, although, latterly on several occasions, Auldhouseburn Farm was the venue. Muirkirk Brass Band was there to blend their music with the sounds characteristic of such events, and most of the villagers turned out to view the scene, and, the menfolk especially, to take more than a passing interest in the trots which were a feature of the Show. Although the Show was confined to the Parish, there was generally a high standard of quality about the exhibits, and it took a really good specimen to win a prize. The horse trot was at first also a confined event, but latterly the sporting fraternity introduced an open event, which attracted entrants and bookies from over a wide area. Yes, it must have been a great gala day, right enough.

A reader volunteers the information that the last Cattle Show in Muirkirk was held at Auldhouseburn in 1906.

Mr H. Keenan, Hairdresser,

announced the closing of his business in Main Street.

IN WINTER'S GRIP

Like most of the country this district did not escape the rigours of January's snow storm. Huge drifts of snow blocked the roads and railways, and vehicular traffic was at a standstill for a few days. At Southside a great deal of discomfort was caused through the fine snow blowing in between the slates and the ceilings of the dwelling houses. Quite a number of the ceilings fell down, and a small army was at work bailing out snow from the rafters. A few houses were evacuated for a night or two, the tenants being accommodated in the Reading Room of the Ironworks Institute. Funerals to and from Muirkirk were held up, and while we understand that at least two Muirkirk bridegrooms walked through the snow to neighbouring villages to get the "knot" tied. As a result of the conditions the miners were idle for a few days.

ORANGE LODGE FORMED

In July, at a ceremony in the Masonic Hall, an Orange Lodge was officially formed in Muirkirk, it being sixty years since there was one locally. The founder office-bearers were:—

Grand Master Bro. James G. Beresford
Deputy Master Bro. Gourlay Haugh
Secretary Bro. F. Lochhead
Treasurer Bro. James Anderson

SMITHY CLOSED

William Alston & Son closed down their Blacksmith's business in Main Street in January.

**Muirkirk
Co-operative Society
Limited.**

**AID TO RUSSIA
FUND.**

Presiding at the S.C.W.S. Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, Mr NEIL S. BEATON, in the course of his remarks, said:—

"To defeat the menace of Hitlerism, Britain and Russia must co-operate with all the power of our joint resources: what is ours is theirs and what is theirs is ours must be our motto for the future. . . . Russia is fighting our fight. We must therefore deliver the Goods."

In Muirkirk Co-operative Society,

Members can help Russia by apportioning a little of the Dividend on their Purchases each Week to

Number 1050,

which is

Joe Stalin's Number

in this Society.

**DO YOUR BIT, AND
THE SOCIETY WILL DO THE REST.**

SEEN AND HEARD

Some mention has already been made about the "Big Four" at Muirkirk Bowling Club, and more light was thrown on this subject at the Old Folks' Reunion in January, when Mr William Brown (of James Brown & Sons, Builders) was in the chair. Mr Brown said his father had come to the village in 1879 to build the Railway Sheds. In reminiscing, the fact emerged that the "Big Four" bowlers were Cunningham, Bell, Richmond, and Pirrie.

Mr John H. Preston and Mr Peter McLuskie were appointed Justices of the Peace for the County of Ayr.

Mr John Young, J.P., cashier at the Lugar Works of Baird & Dalmellington, retired after the long period of 58½ years service with the firm.

Scotland beat England at Hampden Park in April, with Willie Shankly making his tenth appearance in the Scottish colours, and being man of the match, and notching one of the goals.

The estate of the late Rev. W. Greig Alexander, of Wellwood Church amounted to £2,793.

Rev. Malcolm Pollock, M.A., was appointed to succeed Mr Alexander at Wellwood Church.

Children were warned to keep well clear of tanks passing through the village, as they are liable to slip while negotiating bends.

Concern was expressed at the damage being done to Ladeside Park by the spreading of moss onto the playing surface.

Chief Petty Officer Harry Wardrop, reported missing in December, is now presumed lost at sea. Two years ago Harry was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Mr Sheach, the local Gas Manager, has been transferred to Beith. Mr Tom McCartney, West Calder, has been appointed in his place.

Willie Shankly of football fame, is apparently making a name for himself in another sport—boxing. Willie, who is in the R.A.F., has won three cups and three medals.

Mr James Dodds, 3 Middlefield Drive, was accidentally drowned on the Clyde Coast.

Dux of the Muirkirk H.G. School is Agnes Kirkwood.

Thomas Ross Kelly, of 16 Kames Row, lost his life in an underground accident at Kames Colliery. He was 52 years of age.

Mr Allan Loggie retired as Postman after forty six years service—some record. To mark the achievement Mr Loggie was presented with the Imperial Service Medal and Ribbon.

Southside Juvenile F.C. was formed in September, with Mr George Black as secretary, and Mr William Johnstone as treasurer.

Rev. J. T. H. Taylor was ordained as Minister of Muirkirk E. U. Congregational Church.

At quoiting, Muirkirk's William Walker beat William Dick, Catrine, 31—16 in a challenge match.

Mr John Devine, for over 30 years check-weigher at Kennox Colliery, retired. For a long number of years Mr Devine has been associated with musical activities in the village.

VICTORY IN EGYPT (Nov. 19 Issue)

It was fine to hear the Church bells ringing on Sunday to celebrate the victory in the Battle of Egypt. When final victory is achieved—well, we'll leave that to the imagination meantime.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1942**BIRTHS**

KIRKLAND.—At Birmingham on 25th January to Mr and Mrs John Kirkland; a son.

MUIR.—At Gibson's Place, Glenbuck, on 8th March to Mr and Mrs David Muir; a son.

ROSS.—At Springburn on 26th May to Mr and Mrs R. Ross; a son.

CHAPMAN.—At Dunaskin on 30th September to Mr and Mrs William Chapman; a son.

MARRIAGES

JOHN BRODIE to THOMASINA HAMILTON on 10th January.

GEORGE CHAPMAN to MARGARET LOCHRIE on 17th January.

ROBERT MENZIES to EVA HILTON on 4th April.

HUGH MURRAY to JOYCE ALDRIDGE on 25th April.

JACK McCANN to MARGARET NUGENT on 2nd May.

JAMES HOLLAND to BARBARA CROSBIE on 23rd May.

RAYMOND FORSHAY to MARY DEMPSTER on 18th April

JAMES FERGUSON to MARION GOLD on 5th June.

ALEXANDER BAIRD to MARGARET TOWLE on 5th June.

ANDREW STEELE to HELEN McMILLAN on 30th June.

JOHN WILSON to JEAN CALDOW on 26th June.

COLIN WALLACE to NANCY THOMSON on 10th July.

WILLIAM HASTIE to JOAN TYLER on 15th August.

DAVID GREENWOOD to JOAN MORRIS on 20th August.

JAMES THOMSON to EADIE FINDLAY on 9th October.

BOB DOUGALL to PEGGY FORSYTH on 19th October.

DAVID PRINGLE to MAY FOSTER on 23rd December.

ALEXANDER PRINGLE to JANET TEMPLETON on 26th December.

DEATHS

McCALL.—At 20 Springhill Terrace on 9th January, Grace Mair, aged 73 years.

TAYLOR.—At 84 Main Street on 11th January, Janet Strickland, aged 60 years.

WALLACE.—At Fergus Place on 8th January, Elizabeth Park, aged 76 years.

PICKERING.—At 8 Torhill on 23rd January, Catherine Harkness, aged 73 years.

MATHIESON.—At Anneslea, 135 Main Street, on 27th January, Jean MacConnochie, aged 70 years.

RICHMOND.—At Ayr on 24th January, John Revie Richmond.

CHAPMAN.—At Dunaskin on 11th February, Jeanie McLean, aged 6 months.

McCULLOCH.—At Mearnskirk on 10th February, Robert McCulloch (late of Linkieburn).

WILSON.—At 46 Main Street on 24th February, Helen Smith, aged 82 years.

MURDOCH.—At Woodend, Smallburn, on 24th March, Mary Alexander, aged 63 years.

HODGE.—At Glasgow on 29th March, James Hodge (of 28 Main Street, Muirkirk).

GIBSON.—At 45 Main Street on 14th April, Mary Gibson.

FLEMING.—At 41 New Terrace on 12th April, John Fleming, aged 70 years.

MONTGOMERY.—At 55 Kames Row on 12th April, Joseph Montgomery, aged 69 years

GIBSON.—At 24 Furnace Road on 25th April, Agnes Gibson.

MITCHELL.—At Mauchline on 24th April, John Mitchell, aged 74 years.

MUIR.—At 13 Middlefield Drive on 25th April, Agnes Swan, aged 71 years.

McCALL.—At 12 Victoria Buildings on 7th May, John McCall, aged 71 years.

McINALLY.—At 15 Torhill on 9th May, Mary Connor, aged 51 years.

WALLACE.—At the Castle, Glenbuck, on 14th May, Lewis Wallace, aged 76 years.

BAIN.—At 17 Glasgow Road on 27th May, Margaret Robertson.

BECK.—At Glasgow on 30th May, Andrew Beck, aged 39 years (of 17 Glasgow Road).

SYMINGTON.—At 95 Main Street, on 3rd June, Mary Stitt, aged 79 years.

WARDROP.—Reported missing, now presumed lost at sea in December, Harry Wardrop.

WARD.—At 14 Main Street on 18th June, David Ward, aged 25 years.

KELLY.—Accidentally killed at Kames Colliery on 3rd July, Thomas Kelly, aged 52 years (of Kames Row).

MURRAY.—At 112 Main Street on 6th July, Richard Murray, aged 66 years.

LINDSAY.—Killed in action in the Middle East on 15th June, Norman Crawford.

KELLY.—At 23 Kames Row on 14th July, Janet Kelly, aged 73 years.

FLEMING.—At London on 13th August, John Fleming (late of 41 New Terrace).

JACK.—At a Hospital on 1st September, Martha Aitken, aged 66 years (of Railway Buildings, Smallburn).

THOMSON.—At 131 Main Street on 6th October, John Thomson, aged 67 years.

SAMSON.—At Jack's Buildings on 19th October, Annie Millar, aged 75 years.

HARKNESS.—At Glasgow on 11th November, Margaret Harkness.

COLGAN.—Accidentally killed in Kames Colliery on 10th November, John Colgan, aged 19 years (of 4 Old Terrace).

ARMSTRONG.—At a Hospital on 23rd November, Jeanie Wyper.

MAIR.—At Irvine on 25th November, Jean Menzies (of 47 Garronhill).

MURRAY.—At Glasgow on 28th November, Janet Cameron, aged 49 years (of Linkieburn House).

LAW.—At Lilybank, Smallburn, on 24th December, James Law, aged 95 years.

CHANGING FORMAT

On 23rd April, another change in the appearance of the {Advertiser} took place when the "Hatches, Matches, and Despatches" section took over the top of the first column on Page 1. Previously they had been the forerunner to the news items on Page 2.

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

(1943)

NOTES ON OLD MUIRKIRK

MUIRKIRK OLD CHURCHYARD

The earliest stone bears the date 1629, but the Churchyard must have been in use before that date. The Parish of Muirkirk was disjoined from Mauchline in 1621, and it may be reasonably assumed that Muirkirk, whilst not a separate Parish, was a Preaching Station with a Kirk and a Kirkyard. It is reasonably estimated that there might be 6,400 persons buried in the Old Churchyard.

In 1894 the Sheriff-Substitute of Ayrshire found that the Burial Ground situated in the village of Muirkirk, adjacent to the Parish Church, "is dangerous to health, and offensive, and contrary to decency," and it was recommended that burials be discontinued in this Burial Ground.

This was agreed to with certain conditions, and also the following persons were permitted to be buried after 1894 ("who are all elderly persons"), viz., John McMichael, Robert Riggans and Spouse, Thomas Gibson and Spouse, James Clark and Spouse, William Beck and Spouse, James Allison of Tardoes and Spouse, James McKersie, William Thomson, Charles Blyth, Marion McCaul, Miss Ellen Muir, Sarah Scott, Margaret Russell, Mrs Johnstone, Mrs William Gibson, Mrs Gilchrist, Hugh Begg, Alexander Dempster, John Taylor, James Weir, and Agnes Callan.

The last burial in the Old Churchyard took place in 1922.

The new Cemetery was made in 1886 and extended in 1889 and again in 1900. The first Cemetery cost £100 per imperial acre. Original Entrance Gate, £10 10/-.

FURTHER NOTES

- In 1842, First Cattle Show (Muirkirk Farmers' Society).
- In 1864, under the Nuisance Removal Act (Scotland) 1856, an Inspector of Nuisance was appointed at a salary of £5 a year.
- In 1866, in above connection, the Committee agreed to inspect, personally, the Parish by house to house visitation.
- In 1870, Kames Pit sunk. Lightshaw Pit same year.
- In 1884, Muirkirk Curling Club celebrated its Centenary.
- In 1885, Police Station (Main Street) completed.
- In 1887, Miss Bruce commenced a School for Girls Only. School Hours and Fees same as other schools under the School Board. (In Temperance Hall).
- In 1894, Muirkirk Parochial Offices (new) opened by Mr J. G. A. Baird, M.P.. Those present were supplied with cake and wine.
- In 1885, a Dorking Hen belonging to Fanny McFarlane laid an egg which weighed fully 3½ ounces.

MUIRKIRK WATER SUPPLY

In 1887, Civil Engineers asked to report as to the most suitable source from which to procure a Water Supply.

He examined the Lade, Garpel Burn, the Auldhouseburn, and the Burns on the Crossflat Estate, and on the North of the Parish, the Slot Burn, the Dippal Burn, and the Ponesk Burn.

Tank or Reservoir must be 900 feet above sea level.

Lade from the Garpel Water—rejected on account of discolouration with peat to such an extent as to make it unsuitable for domestic use.

Ponesk, Dippal, Greenock Water—rejected as being too far away from village.

Auldhouseburn accepted.

Crossflat Burns—Similar to Auldhouseburn but further away from village.

Analysis of Auldhouseburn Water.—This water is clear and bright, and in a tube 10 inches in depth shows the same slight brownish tint as the Glasgow Water Supply. The analysis indicates that it is perfectly free from all impurities and of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes generally. It is rather hard for washing, but the hardest is reduced one-third by boiling. On the whole I consider it an excellent water for the supply of a town.

Note.—What about advocating for a pipe thro' the Whisky Knowe?

(Concluded)

VITAL STATISTICS (1942)

Births—74. As against 89 in 1941.

Marriages—33. One more than previous year.

Deaths—42. As against 33 in 1941.

EDITORIAL REPLY

From an excerpt from "The Contemporaries of Burns and the more recent Poets of Ayrshire," we cull the following:—About 1798 Lapraik, then far advanced in years, removed to Muirkirk, where he opened a small public house, which served at the same time as the village Post Office, he having been, through the kindness of friends, installed into that trust. Here he lived much respected till his death, which took place on 7th May, 1807, in the eightieth year of his age. By his second wife, who survived till the 5th March, 1826, he had a large family, nine of whom reached the years of maturity.

That answers your questions "when" and "whom." With regard to "Where" the Post Office was in Kirkgreen we are assured that it was the house in the southwest corner, and which forty to fifty years ago formed the Kirkgreen premises of the Co-operative Society. Lapraiks have resided in that house within living memory.—Ed.

DID YOU KNOW

That John Finlayson, the Muirkirk farmer who invented the Patent Rid or Self-Cleaning Plough is buried in the Old Churchyard

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Rev. John Henderson, B.D., had the unique experience of attending two golden weddings last week (June). The worthy couples reaching this important matrimonial milestone were Mr and Mrs Adam Gordon, Dornel (formerly of The Stables, Muirkirk), and Mr and Mrs James Stewart, Oakwood, Buchlyvie (parents of Mrs Lawson, Lightshaw). A remarkable feature of the celebrations was that in the former the original best man and bridesmaid were present, and in the latter the two original bridesmaids and the best man were all present.

FARM TRAGEDY

A distressing tragedy occurred at Grasshill farm on 15th December when four-years-old Douglas Baird took suddenly ill and passed away. It is presumed that Douglas had swallowed some sheep medical pills. The sad occurrence shocked the community.

PASSING OF OLDEST RESIDENTER

A link with old Muirkirk was broken last week (February) with the passing of Mrs Catherine Gibney, the oldest residenter in the district. A native of Ireland, Mrs Gibney spent a lifetime in Muirkirk, where she gained the respect of the community, and she will be remembered by all who knew her as a worthy old lady, the soul of industry, and of the type whose independent spirit is an inspiration to those who follow on. Although some doubts may exist as to her exact age, it is reckoned that it was round about the 100 years mark.

WINGS FOR VICTORY

This year's war effort was to help the R.A.F., and again Muirkirk was not found wanting in its effort in purchasing Savings Certificates and War Bonds. A local target of £10,000 was set, but this was easily overtaken as the run-up totals show:—

Saturday	£8,000	0	0
Monday	8,941	6	6
Tuesday	10,389	1	0
Wednesday	12,2623	4	6
Thursday	13,406	4	0
Friday	15,1271	16	6
Saturday (Grand Total)	21,3046	19	4

It is indeed a highly creditable result, and with almost a quarter of the grand total to their credit, Glenbuck folks are due a special word of congratulation. It took £5,000 to purchase a Spitfire, so one can see that Muirkirk was playing its part in the war effort. Well done!

SOLDIER HONOURED (2nd Dec. Issue)

We are at all times pleased to hear of the welfare of our boys in the Services, and we welcome with satisfaction the news that one of them, Tom Hazle, son of Mr and Mrs T. Hazle, Middlefield drive, has been Mentioned in Despatches for Distinguished Conduct in Malta during that heroic island's ordeals. It seems quite a number of Muirkirk lads are identified with Malta, and to them all we send heartiest greetings, with a special word of congratulations to Tom Hazle for his gallantry. We might even add that now we know why Malta has done so well. Readers will also remember Tom as being a member of the famous H.G. School football team of some years ago.

OBITUARY

Information has just reached Muirkirk of the death, through accident, of Mr James Shaw, eldest son of the late Mr John Shaw, who was manager at Bankhead Pit. Mr Shaw chose as his spouse, Miss Janet Blackwood (of the well-known joinery firm here), and the couple, together with his brother, Peter, and her sister, Isabella, emigrated to Australia many years ago. Janet died there. They took up farming in Australia and the survivors are still in that line

ECHOES OF THE PAST

The death of Mr Robert Blyth in December recalls the fateful Bankhead Pit disaster in March, 1898, when three men lost their lives in a pit flood. Bob was awarded the Carnegie Heroes' Silver Medal for his conduct in the disaster

Mr James D. Kirkwood, headmaster at Glenbuck Public School, died aged 51 years, having been almost sixteen years at the school.

MINING TRAGEDY AT GLESPIN

3rd June Issue

Much concern was felt in the district on Sunday when it became known that, owing to a sudden inrush of water from old workings, No. 7 Mine in Kennox Colliery had been flooded seriously, and that three local men were missing. Volunteers were soon at work to endeavour to overcome the inflow, and the latest official word on Sunday evening was that all hope had not been abandoned. Despite arduous effort by willing workers both by day and night up to the moment of writing, no contact has been made with the three men who are missing.

The men are William Clark (6) and his son Victor (22) and his nephew John Reid (21), who are all resident in Glespin. The incident has aroused great sympathy, and those in charge seem to think there is still a possibility of saving the men. Several large pumps have been used to gain control of the water, and every possible effort is being made to rescue the missing men.—At time of going to press there was nothing further to report.

10th June Issue

The steady constant effort to bring aid to the three men trapped by water in Kennox Colliery continued night and day all last week. Many powerful pumps were installed, and every known device to overcome the flood was tried with varying success, but up till this forenoon no contact had been made with the missing men.

Stop Press.—Telephone enquiry to Kennox Colliery at 2.45 p.m. today revealed that no contact had been made with the missing men at that hour. Pumping operations still going on.

17th June Issue

All over the country great interest has been taken in the efforts to rescue the three miners trapped by an inrush of water into No. 7 Mine at Kennox Colliery on Sunday, 30th May. The efforts of the rescue parties have been freely referred to in the Press and on the radio, but despite every available effort and the presence of all the best experts in the country, the efforts have proved unavailing. Whenever success in gaining access to where the men were presumed to be seemed near, a setback occurred. Another inrush of water threw the eager workers back again, then on Friday, when it was estimated that other ten minutes would have solved the mystery of the men's fate, black damp was encountered, and again the efforts were temporarily foiled. The presence of the dangerous gas makes the chances of the men being alive more remote, and although at the moment of writing efforts to obtain contact are being pushed forward, no definite results have been achieved. On Monday fans were installed to help remove the dangerous black damp, which was hampering operations. The water has now been got under control, but up to time of writing the fate of the missing men had not been established.

24th June Issue

Almost exactly twenty-one days after they were reported missing, the bodies of the three men were recovered in No. Seven Mine at Kennox Colliery, Glespin, where an inrush of water occurred on Sunday, 30th May. Strenuous efforts to recover these unfortunate miners have continued night and day since the disaster occurred, and every known means were utilised to recover them alive, but when the presence of black damp was discovered all hope of their lives was abandoned, still the rescue operations continued. It is understood that their bodies were found in higher workings, high and dry, and it is estimated that their end would be peaceful. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved relatives, to whom this long period of uncertainty must have been a severe trial. Some of the rescue men, who are completely exhausted by their continuous efforts, go to a convalescent home this week-end to recuperate.

SEEN AND HEARD

The death was announced in Cumnock of Mr John McCulloch, a mine manager in Muirkirk from 1903 till 1926, when he was made manager at Whitehill, Cumnock. He had been a member of the Parish Council and an Elder of Muirkirk Parish Church.

Mr Donald MacDougall, one of our star vocalists, on a periodical visit to Muirkirk, recalled the days when the Parish Church choir under Mr Richmond could boast no fewer than 14 gold medals won in singing contests.

Believe it or not there were bananas in Muirkirk at the weekend (April). No doubt the few who were privileged to sample these war-time rarities would linger over the delicacy.

Mr Hugh Hamilton, aged 91 years, passed away at Wellwood Crescent. In his younger days Hugh was a member of the team which won the Ayrshire Draughts Championship for the Baird Institute.

In their efforts to maintain the war effort the Government brought in a special law empowering them to requisition all unnecessary iron railings and gates, and subsequently most of the railings in Muirkirk were removed.

History was made in Muirkirk on 18th June when for the first time locally a marriage ceremony was performed by the Registrar in his Office at Wellwood Street.

In July, Mr J. F. Gordon retired from the headmastership of Muirkirk Higher Grade School. Mr Gordon had served the school and the community well in his 27 years sojourn in the village. Mr Gordon had been a loyal member of Wellwood Church, being an Elder for over 20 years, and Treasurer for 15 years.

Mr James McKay was appointed Bakery Foreman at Muirkirk Co-operative Society in succession to Mr James Laidlaw. Mr McKay had been with the Society for 27 years..

One of Muirkirk's best known townsmen, Mr Walter Weir, passed away at Heathfield, Glasgow Road, on 13th September. Mr Weir, who was 80 years old, was senior Elder of Muirkirk Old Parish Church, and was a very prominent Freemason. In his younger days Mr Weir was employed in the railways, and for a time was caretaker at the Temperance Hall. Later he carried on a newsagent's business in Main Street, and was the first manager of the Labour Exchange in Muirkirk.

Thomas Wilson Stitt (28) was killed instantly by a fall of coal at Kames Colliery. Mr Stitt, who was a stripper, resided at Garronhill.

F. Melrose, Chemist, took over from Mr A. S. Templeton in June.

NOTICE.

OWING to the Exceptional Demand for our Wares, and the consequent depletion of our Stocks, to allow these to be Replenished

Our Premises will be Closed from Monday, 22nd, till Saturday, 27th June, inclusive, after which we hope to resume business as usual.

We take this opportunity to thank our many friends for their loyalty and support under trying conditions.

HOGG, BAKERS.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1943**BIRTHS**

VALLANCE.—At Stableyard on 20th February, to Mr and Mrs George Vallance; a son.

McARTHUR.— At 105 Smallburn on 29th May to Mr and Mrs Duncan McArthur; a daughter.

HASTIE.—At Gainsburgh on 10th June to Mr and Mrs William Hastie; a daughter.

HUHTALA.—In U.S.A. to Mr and Mrs Hans Huhtala; a daughter.

STEELE.—At Bonnyrigg on 11th July to Mr and Mrs A. Steele; a son.

HASTINGS.—At Douglas on 14th August to Mr and Mrs William Hastings; a son.

HENDERSON.—In South Africa on 6th September to Vera (wife of Ft/Lt Henderson, the Manse, Muirkirk); a son.

MITCHELL.—At Ayr on 27th October to Mr and Mrs Archie Mitchell; a daughter.

PETT.—At London on 14th December to Mr and Mrs Richard Pett; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

BENNETT DE MASCIO to MARGARET SLOAN on 5th January.

THOMAS HAZLE to MOIRA MUNRO on 28th January.

ROBERT SAMSON to GLADYS BRUTON on 8th March.

TOM SYMINGTON to MARGARET FORSYTH on 19th March.

THOMAS MENZIES to EVELYN LORIMER on 7th April

WILFRED ROBERTS to JEAN FERGUSON on 24th April.

JAMES PRINGLE to DOROTHY HENDRY on 1st May.

WILLIAM FORSYTH to ELIZ. COWPER on 30th April.

JOHN FORDYCE to MARTHA CALLAN on 5th June.

SAMUEL ROBB to PHYLLIS WARMAN on 12th June.

PETER CAMPBELL to AGNES WILSON on 16th June.

WILLIAM RUSSELL to LILIAS HOGG on 16th June.

WALTER WEIR to HELEN FORREST on 21st July.

ERIC ALLISON to MARGARET McDOUGALL on 17th September.

STANLEY ROWLEY to MARGARET YOUNG on 6th October.

WILLIAM HAY to JENNY CALLAN on 5th October.

THOMAS DAVIDSON to AGNES LAIDLAW on 10th december

WALTER WEIR to MARY BLACKWOOD on 29th December.

DEATHS

PURDIE.—At Stirling on 3rd January, Marion Hogg (late of Muirkirk).

PATON.—At Stewarton on 14th January, William Paton, aged 35 years.

MACKIE.—At 5 Middlefield Drive on 22nd January, Peter Mackie.

McDONALD.—At Paisley on 6th March, Margaret McDonald, aged 79 years (of Co-operative Buildings).

DICKSON.—At a hospital on 11th March, William Dickson, aged 76 years (of 75½ Main Street).

DUNSMORE.—At 48 Springhill Terrace on 26th March, Annie Sloan, aged 67 years.

DEATHS (continued)

MENZIES.—At 2 Old Terrace on 5th April, Elizabeth Adair.
 SINCLAIR.—At 42 New Terrace on 8th April, Charles Sinclair, aged 70 years.
 CRUICKSHANK.—At London on 14th April, Frederick Cruickshank, aged 23 years.
 LAIDLAW.—At the Lodge, Glenbuck House, on 19th April, Walter Laidlaw.
 GIRDWOOD.—At Furnace Road on 22nd April, Alison Girdwood, aged 81 years.
 GREENHOW.—At 40 Springhill Terrace on 25th April, Frances Bowerman, aged 76 years.
 MOORE.—At Motherwell on 25th April, James Moore (late of Glenbuck).
 WEIR.—In hospital on 10th February, Thomas Weir.
 CAIRNEY.—At 27 Glasgow Road on 29th April, Peter Cairney, aged 65 years.
 GAW.—At 5 Old Terrace on 30th April, Catherine Strickland.
 MacFARLANE.—In Argyll on 1st May, Lachlan MacFarlane.
 HAMILTON.—At 3 Wellwood Crescent on 23rd May, Hugh Hamilton, aged 91 years.
 NIMMO.—At Letchworth on 7th May, Nancy McDonald (of 137 Main Street).
 BROWN.—At Birmingham on 24th May, Mary Allen, aged 65 years (late of Glenbuck).
 TOWLE.—At a hospital on 5th June, Annie Morrison (of 3 Ironworks Cottages).
 WALKER.—At 10 Old Terrace on 5th June, Andrew Walker, aged 86 years.
 KIRK.—At Railway Buildings on 21st June, William Kirk, aged 48 years.
 FERGUSON.—Accidentally killed in North Africa, George Ferguson (of 41 Garronhill).
 SHAW.—In Australia on 21st April, as the result of an accident, James Shaw.
 CALDOW.—At Isle Cottage on 10th July, James Caldwell.
 ROBB.—Killed in mine accident in New South Wales, Peter Robb (of the Royal George).
 BLANE.—At 33 Glasgow Road, Muirkirk, on 20th July, Mary Wilson, aged 67 years.
 MORTON.—At Glasgow on 22nd July, John Morton.
 HAMILTON.—At Toll Cottage on 3rd July, Susan Gilchrist, aged 76 years.
 HENDERSON.—At 43 Garronhill on 1st August, Catherine Vallance, aged 81 years.
 CAIRNEY.—At 27 Glasgow Road on 5th August, Peter Cairney, aged 70 years.
 McCRORIE.—Reported killed in action on 2nd August in Sicily on 2nd August, John McCrorie, aged 26 years (of 51 Garronhill).
 TURNER.—At 9 Garronhill House on 9th Sept, Robert Turner.
 WEIR.—At Heathfield, Muirkirk, on 13th September, Walter Weir, aged 80 years.
 PARK.—In Glasgow on 28th September, James Park.
 MORAN.—At 31 New Terrace on 3rd October, William Moran, aged 50 years.
 DUNLOP.—At Glasgow on 9th October, Crawford Samson, aged 52 years (of Holm Cottage, Smallburn).
 LOCHHEAD.—At 7 Kirkgreen on 12th October, Mary English, aged 82 years.
 MARSHALL.—At Glasgow on 6th October, Frank Marshall, aged 64 years.

LOCHRIE.—At 56 Kames Row on 23rd October, Gavin Lochrie, aged 34 years.
 DAVIDSON.—At Co-operative Buildings, Glenbuck, on 26th October, Agnes Campbell, aged 75 years.
 BROWN.—At Johnstone on 2nd November, James Brown, aged 76 years (late of 27 Midhouse Row).
 LOGIE.—In U.S.A. on 31st Oct., Thomas Logie, aged 70
 FLEMING.—At Vass's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 2nd November, Alexander Fleming, aged 79 years.
 MORAN.—At 28 Bridge Street on 6th November, Terence Moran, aged 79 years.
 GOODLET.—At 1 Kames Row on 12th November, David Goodlet, aged 74 years.
 MITCHELL.—As the result of an accident on 9th November, Wee William, aged 3½ years (of 13 Old Terrace).
 PARK.—At Greenock on 9th Nov., James Park, aged 72 years.
 BROWN.—At Ayr on 1st December, John Brown, aged 70 years (of 10 Victoria Buildings).
 McCALL.—Killed in Air Operatins in August, Thomas McCall, aged 22 years (of 7 Wellwood Crescent).
 BAIRD.—At Grasshill Farm on 15th December, Douglas Baird, aged four years and eight months.
 IRVINE.—At 15 Springhill Terrace on 10th December, Alan Irvine, aged 84 years.
 MARSHALL.—At Garronhill House on 29th November, Mary McCall, aged 49 years.
 HOLDEN.—At 105 Smallburn on 15th December, Thomas Holden, aged 57 years.
 LESLIE.—At Clarkston on 18th December, James Leslie.
 McLATCHIE.—At 35 New Terrace on 14th December, Agnes Hodge, aged 66 years.
 BLYTHE.—At Main Street on 26th December, Robert Blythe, aged 76 years.



JOHN JAMES MARSHALL, M.B.E.

Fourth Engineer Officer John James Marshall, only son of Mr and Mrs John Marshall, Fergus Place, Main Street, has been awarded the M.B.E., it is announced. Jackie took charge of a lifeboat containing 20 shipwrecked men, which for thirteen days ploughed more than 200 miles through heavy seas to safety. Their ship was torpedoed and sank within ten minutes, and the men owe their lives to Jackie's skilful handling of the lifeboat

CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN

(1944)

THE WAR (8th June Issue).

Invasion! The news that Allied armies had invaded France on Tuesday morning sent a thrill of excitement through one and all. At last the moment had arrived for the supreme test. The great victories in Italy were dwarfed by this electrifying announcement. Mr Churchill spoke in the House—the King addressed his people, calling them to prayer and dedication. Great days, surely. Our leaders have chosen the time, confident in their men, their equipment, and their cause—we follow them with faith and pride. In a gigantic initial operation they have stormed Hitler's "Impregnable" West Wall. Heavy fighting and anxious days lie ahead. Our thoughts and prayers are for those brave men—not only on the shores of France, but on all the fighting fronts, as they march forward to victory and the suppression of the evil forces which have thrown such misery and suffering upon the world.

We read with interest a despatch from Headquarters, Italy, reporting a daring action in which two companies of the Green Howards took a system of German machine-gun positions in a savage fight across the Moletta River at dawn on May 23, held them for over 30 hours, and provided a diversion on the coastal flank of the beachhead for the main outbreak from the beachhead. In a grim and bloody encounter, Lieut. B. Ryrie, Glenbuck House, commanding a platoon engaged in hand-to-hand fighting continued to lead the fight for four hours before asking for half-an-hour's relief to have his wound dressed. This was one of a number of inspiring incidents in this action, and we are proud of Lieut. Ryrie's spirit and example. We send him heartiest wishes for a complete recovery and the very best of luck in the future.

17th August Issue

These are historic days. The new invasion of Southern France and the advances on all the fighting fronts are bringing the day of victory nearer, and with representatives of our own little village in practically all the battle zones, every scrap of news is devoured with eagerness,

We are proud of the exploits of the men of our fighting forces, and when special mention is given any of our own Muirkirk lads we are doubly proud. And so it gives us the greatest of pleasure to learn that a Muirkirk lad, Fus. Hugh Dillon, third son of Mr and Mrs Dillon, Main Street, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallant service in the Anzio beachhead in Italy. Further details are not available at the moment, but we hope to get the story later on.

The black-out ended in September, and a number of Muirkirk households reverted to peace-time blinds, but there were no street lights.

GOING, GOING, GONE!

There is a difference in the outlook at Furnace Road with the dismantling of the bridge which carried the railway leading to the Slag Hill. This bridge was just past the road end to the Royal George. Another bridge which has been shorn of its metal is the one at Airdsgreen. We had wondered what was the original purpose of this latter bridge, but according to an informant, it was erected for a branch railway from a quarry at Maidenbank to the main railway line, but was never used for this purpose.

**CO-OP. DIVIDEND — 2/6 per £
PLUS 1/- per £ BONUS**

THE HOLM

Apropos. a query anent the old cycling track at the Holm, Smallburn (which was opposite the present Filling Station), two readers have kindly volunteered some information. From Glenbuck comes the report that the track was opened 46 years ago next month, when a silver marmalade dish, presented by Mrs Baird, Wellwood, was won by Mr Forbes Marshall on the opening day. Mr James Williamson, Glasgow, writes to say that from the diary belonging to his late brother, George, who was a member of the Muirkirk Cycling Club in those far-off days, he notes that the late Mr David Greenwood offered to make the track for £49, and that the work was started in December, 1895, and finished 9th May, 1896. We are told from still another source that the Scottish Cycling Authority did not approve of the track—the banking had to be raised—and that the actual cost would probably be more like double the sum mentioned.

ANOTHER VISIT FROM SIR HARRY

A concert in aid of the Welcome Home Fund was held in the Ironworks Institute in September, when the piece de resistance of the evening was the appearance of Sir Harry Lauder, who looked in to sing a song and crack a joke in the inimitable manner which has cheered and soothed Scottish hearts the world over. Sir Harry was in "gran' win'," and the audience responded accordingly. He was given a great ovation for his kindly and practical interest.

QUOITING

John Kilpatrick, Muirkirk-born quaiting champion, added fresh laurels to a distinguished sporting career, by winning the 21 yards championship of Scotland for the eleventh time. John, who is attached to the Herriothill Club, was opposed in the final by W. Penman, Bellshill. This was the third time these two had met in the final, and on each occasion Kilpatrick has proved the better. It had been an exciting finish, for after the scores had been level at 50, 56, 58, 59, and 60, Kilpatrick scored to win by a single shot 61—60.

A match for £100 was played at the Mason Arms Quaiting Ground between W. Walker, Muirkirk, and Ivy Piper, Glenburn. Piper won by 61 shots to 44 in front of one of the biggest crowds seen at Muirkirk

VITAL STATISTICS, 1943

Births—74. 41 males and 33 females. No change from last year.

Marriages—40. 2 of which were contracted at the Registrar's Office. An increase of 7 from last year.

Deaths—58. Of this number 34 were persons of 65 years of age or over. An increase of 16 from last year, and the highest number of deaths recorded in the Parish since 1918.

A CHIP OF THE OLD BLOCK!

Lieutenant Harry Caldwell, grandson of Mr Harry Caldwell, Muirkirk, is playing an important part in the recreational side of Army life in North Africa. Every Saturday evening he arranges and comperes a Forces Programme from Radio France, Algiers, and he also compered a 14-day tour by Gracie Fields.

Another link with Muirkirk of the past was severed with the death of Mrs Angus (wife of the late John Angus, who was for many years overseer of Messrs William Baird & Co.'s coal and iron industries here). The couple left Muirkirk in 1915.

SEEN AND HEARD

The Muirkirk Old Folks Re-union was held in January, and an outstanding feature of the entertainment was undoubtedly the performance of that doya of the stage, George Arnott (Harry Caldwell to you), who "put over" his comedy songs (at least one with a local flavour) with the real professional touch, and, of course, the smile that won't come off.

A tragic accident happened at Garronhill in January, when Mr James Menzies, trying to find his way home in the black-out fell over the six-foot embankment at Sandy Brae near his home. Mr Menzies expired shortly after being helped to his house.

The death was announced in February of Mr Andrew Pringle, one of our more respected villagers. Mr Pringle spent all his working life with the Ironworks Companies, covering a period of 65 years. He took a keen interest in all the affairs of the village.

George Dalziel Chapman, a local soldier, was killed in action. George was a butcher with the Co-operative Society, first at Muirkirk, and then at Kirkconnel. Two weeks before going overseas he married a local girl—Margaret Lochrie.

More notices have been served on local householders for the removal of iron railings from the front of their houses.

Mr William Muncie (59), an underground fireman at Kames Colliery lost his life when he was caught by a fall of rock. Mr Muncie resided at 1 Midhouse Row.

An old reader said he remembered a quoiting ground behind the Gas Works at Furnace Road.

William Devine, Albert Cottages, was awarded the Military Cross in recognition of Gallantry and distinguished service in Italy.

Mr John Colthart, J.P., was elected Vice-President of the National Union of Scottish Mineworkers.

Constable David Gray transferred from New Cumnock to Muirkirk.

Mr and Mrs Hugh Samson, 32 Wellwood Avenue, celebrated their golden wedding in June. The happy couple were married in Dumfries in 1894.

In June a Welcome Home Fund was formed to arrange a welcome when the local "sodgers" come home.

Lilian C. Marshall was the Dux at Muirkirk School.

Little Sarah McKean, Smallburn, had quite a lucky escape recently, when, walking in her sleep, she fell from a second story window at her home. Nevertheless, she sustained a fractured wrist; but it might have been worse.

Interesting to note that in 1924 Muirkirk Athletic visited Kilbirmie Ladeside in the first round of the Scottish Cup competition. Ladeside had been unbeaten at home for 18 months, and Muirkirk won 2—0.

News reached Muirkirk that James Millar, of 29 Garronhill, had been killed in action in North West Europe, after having survived a great deal of action in the North African campaign.

Renovations at the Drill Hall included the installation of electric light.

The dairy business of John Foster, Kames Farm, was transferred to John Thomson, 42 Smallburn in July.

Mr George McDade, 6 Wellwood Avenue, was reported killed in action in France. George, who was 26 years of age, was employed in the shoe-making department of Muirkirk Co-operative Society.

Mr and Mrs John Young, formerly of Springhill, celebrated their golden wedding on 7th September

The passing on the 29th September of another of our old residents in the person of Mr Robert Gibson, Jack's Buildings, recalls the fateful Bankhead Pit Disaster in March, 1898. Bob was one of the principal figures in this drama of bygone days.

The death was announced of Mr William Hamilton, who was secretary of the Baird Institute for some time; and also Mr William Greenwood, one of our postmen, who won the Military Medal in the Great War.

Mrs Morah Love was appointed Justice of the Peace for Ayrshire.

Dr John C. Cameron, who has been practising in Muirkirk for the past ten years, left to go into a partnership with a friend in Rothesay.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1944**BIRTHS**

GAVIN.—At Ayr on 13th Jan. to Mr and Mrs James Gavin; a daughter.

FINDLAY.—At Kilwinning on 15th February to Mr and Mrs Thomas Findlay; a son.

McNINCH.—At Douglas on 24th February to Mr and Mrs Andrew McNinch; a daughter.

RUSSELL.—At Muirkirk on 7th March to Mr and Mrs William Russell; a son.

ROWE.—At Dumbarton on 16th March to Mr and Mrs Edward Rowe; a son.

THOMSON.—At Irvine on 18th March to Mr and Mrs James Thomas; a son.

MOCHRIE.—At Hedge Grove on 31st March to Mr and Mrs William Mochrie; a son.

PRINGLE.—At Paisley on 14th April to Mr and Mrs James Pringle; a daughter.

SALMON.—At Irvine on 14th April, to Mr and Mrs J. Salmon; a son.

DONES.—At Station Cottage on 18th May to Mr and Mrs Dones; a daughter.

CAMPBELL.—At Perth on 5th July to Mr and Mrs Peter Campbell; a daughter.

ROBERTS.—At Hamilton on 5th July to Mr and Mrs Wilfred Roberts; a daughter.

McMANUS.—At Gaswork Cottage, Muirkirk, on 17th August, to Mr and Mrs Alex. McManus; a son.

SHAW.—At 40 Middlefield Drive on 24th September to Mr and Mrs James Shaw; a daughter.

TAIT.—In the Midlands on 19th September to Mr and Mrs Andrew Tait; a son.

HENDERSON.—At Ayr on 17th November to Vera, the wife of Fl/Lt. Henderson; a daughter.

REID.—At 41 New Terrace on 27th November to Mr and Mrs H. Reid; a daughter.

MARSHALL.—At Irvine on 20th December to Mr and Mrs John Marshall; a son.

MARRIAGES

JAMES SHAW to JENNY BALLANTYNE on 11th February.

GEORGE THOMSON to ELIZABETH LAUHLAN on 15th February.

DANIEL McKENZIE to ISABEL MENZIES on 3rd March.

STANLEY SHACKLETON to JENNY MURPHY on 18th March.

HUGH SHORT to SELENA HOLMES on 22nd April.
 WM. McDUGALL to ANNE DEMPSTER on 29th April.
 WILLIAM PARK to ANNIE MENZIES on 28th April.
 JAMES DODDS to EDITH GRAVES on 18th May.
 GORDON HADDEN to HELEN PATERSON on 20th May.
 JOHN BARRIE to AGNES mcLATCHIE on 16th June.
 WILLIAM FORREST to AGNES BROWN on 21st July.
 GEORGE HOWIE to INA HENDERSON on 25th July.
 GEORGE McKERRELL to ANNE WORDIE on 19th July.
 JOHN ADAMSON to BARBARA ROBERTSON on 12th August.
 JOHN PALMER to ANNIE MURDOCH on 8th September.
 GEORGE DOSWELL to ISOBEL WEIR on 22nd September.
 THOMAS HUGHES to ADA SWEENET on 4th November.
 WILLIAM McLEAN to SARAH REA on 4th November.
 CHRISTOPHER KING to SARAH McKEOWN on 12th December.

DEATHS

FLOYD.—At Woodside Cottage on 3rd January, Margaret Moffat.
 JOHNSTON.—In Canada on 20th February, William Johnston (of Royal George, Muirkirk).
 JOHNSTONE.—At 8 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 30th March, Margaret Vickers, aged 73 years.
 MacGOWAN.—Killed on active service in Burma in March, Sydney MacGowan.
 SMITH.—At 37 Kames Row on 27th March, James Smith, aged 51 years.
 BONE.—At Law Hospital on 11th April, Annie McCoubrie, aged 19 years (late of Glenbuck).
 HYSLOP.—In U.S.A. in March, Elizabeth Scott.
 LAIRD.—Killed in action in Italy in March, Joseph Laird, aged 28 years.
 FORSYTH.—At Ayr on 27th May, Christina Marshall (of Slate House, Glenbuck).
 ROBB.—At 41 Smallburn on 1st June, Helen Trembath.
 BLAIR.—At 2 Bridge Street on 8th June, David Blair, aged 1 year.
 ROSS.—At Glasgow Road on 18th June, Julia Reid.
 WILLIAMSON.—In U.S.A. on 5th May, George Williamson, aged 69 years.
 CANNON.—At Middlefield Drive on 9th January, Christina Weir, aged 60 years.
 LORIMER.—At 6 Wellwood Crescent on 21st January, William Lorimer, aged 70 years.
 MENZIES.—At 47 Garronhill on 22nd January, James Menzies, aged 73 years.
 McKINLAY.—At Ayr on 18th January, Elizabeth Millar, aged 41 years.
 PRINGLE.—At Springhill on 1st February, Andrew Pringle.
 CHAPMAN.—On active service in January, George Chapman.
 GILCHRIST.—In Canada, William Gilchrist, aged 85 years (late of Garronhill).
 PATERSON.—At Midhouse on 20th February, Thomas Paterson.
 JOHNSTONE.—At 29 New Terrace on 24th February, John Johnstone, aged 67 years.
 BELL.—At 41 Garronhill on 5th March, Janet Kirkland, aged 63 years.
 CASAGRANDA.—At 4 Kirkgreen on 10th March, Joseph Casagranda, aged 67 years.
 ADDISON.—Killed in action in February, William Addison.

BROWN.—In New Zealand on 13th March, Alexander Brown, aged 66 years (late of Glenbuck).
 MORTON.—At 4 Wellwood Crescent on 14th March, Margaret Dunlop, aged 81 years.
 McCALL.—At Nottingham on 19th March, Sally McCall.
 CRANSTON.—At Glasgow on 19th April, Euphemia Cranston, aged 50 years (of 67 Linkieburn Square).
 LOGIE.—Killed in action in Burma in April, James Logie, aged 24 years (of Bridge Street).
 WAUGH.—At Glasgow on 14th March, Mary Moffat, aged 19 years (of Station House, Muirkirk).
 BLYTH.—At a hospital on 25th March, John Blyth, aged 20 years (of Ronaldo Place).
 BLANE.—Killed in action in June, Thomas Blane, aged 25 years (of 33 Glasgow Road).
 McDONALD.—At Ayr on 28th June, Sarah McDonald, aged 23 years (of 17 Springhill Terrace).
 FERGUSON.—Killed on active service in June, James Ferguson (of New Terrace).
 ARISS.—Died of wounds in July, E. J. Ariss, aged 24 years (of Auchensilloch Cottages, Glenbuck).
 McGARRITY.—At Torhill on 29th July, Agnes McGarrity, aged 77 years.
 MILLAR.—Killed in action in July, James Millar (of 29 Garronhill).
 WHARRIE.—In Glasgow on 31st July, Alastair Wharrie, aged 15 months (of 14 Bridge Street).
 HUNTER.—At Ayr on 11th August, Frank Hunter, aged 43 years.
 BRADFORD.—At Glasgow on 21st August, Margaret Bradford, aged 6 months (of 133 Main Street).
 BARROWMAN.—At Coatbridge on 31st August, Jessie Crawford.
 LOGAN.—At Glasgow on 4th September, Elizabeth McSkimming, aged 60 years.
 McCANN.—At 11 Kirkgreen on 7th September, Mary Gilroy, aged 60 years.
 TAIT.—At Lough Grasshill, Glenbuck, on 12th September, Thomas Tait aged 71 years.
 HODGE.—At Glasgow on 26th September, Agnes McKinnon, aged 52 years.
 GIBSON.—At 2 Bridge Street on 29th September, Robert Gibson, aged 83 years.
 GREENWOOD.—At Middlefield Drive on 17th October, William Greenwood, aged 55 years.
 HAMILTON.—At Fleming Cottage on 14th October, William Hamilton.
 HENDERSON.—At Glasgow on 11th October, Sarah McMillan.
 WARDROP.—Died of wounds on 6th October, Robert Wardrop.
 GIBSON.—At Lanark on 28th October, Lilius Reid, aged 81 years.
 McGILL.—At 40 Main Street on 4th November, John McGill.
 SELKIRK.—At 7 Midhouse Row on 2nd November, Mary Woodburn, aged 75 years.
 HAUGH.—At Burnbank on 8th November, Crechton Haugh.
 McCOUBRIE.—At 4 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 16th November, Christina Barr, aged 59 years.
 ANDERSON.—At Co-operative Buildings, Kirkgreen, on 23rd November, Alexander Anderson, aged 62 years.
 McMILLAN.—At 27 Middlefield Drive on 1st December, John McMillan, aged 51 years.
 BURNS.—At 32 Main Street on 14th December, Grace Brown.

CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT

(1945)

VICTORY IN EUROPE

(10th May Issue)

When it became known on Monday night that victory had come, and that Tuesday was to be recognised as VE-Day, Muirkirk, like other places, soon got busy to celebrate the historic occasion. Flags and bunting appeared on the buildings and it was not long before several huge bonfires were blazingly merrily. Bells were rung, the children raced through the streets waving flags and cheering, and generally speaking the atmosphere was charged with joy and thankfulness. The Welcome Home Fund Committee held a Victory dance in the Ironworks Institute on Tuesday, and a huge crowd let themselves go in modern and old-time favourites, while a few songsters entertained the company at the interval. Again the night sky was lit by the glare of bonfires, while the flash of fireworks elsewhere could be seen throughout the night. Thanksgiving services were held in the Churches, and several pipers and drummers paraded the town on Wednesday. Yes, it is an occasion for rejoicing, and may Victory in Europe be followed soon by Victory in the campaign against Japan.

With the anticipation of Victory in the air the "Mairret Folks Do" on Friday went with a great swing. It was a grand programme, and as usual, "Harry" had something topical on tap. One of his song snippets:—

"Goebbels and Hitler are gone for ever more,
And the Russian flags are flying in Berlin;
It has been a long, long fight,
But the end is now in sight,
And we'll all feel very happy when the boys come home."

Harry, born 1869, and known as George Arnott in his professional days on the stage, is, with apologies to a well-known advert., "still going strong."

17th May Issue

Although Muirkirk's Victory celebrations fell short of those in many other places, last week was an unforgettable one. Perhaps the happiest man in our district would be Mr A. Brown, Cairn House, who, on Thursday, received a telegram which read:—"Safe at last. No worries. David Brown." David, of the Cameronian Scottish Rifles, was reported missing on 19th April, 1942, and this was the first word of him his father had received.

VICTORY IN JAPAN

(16th August Issue)

Victory! What a wonderful experience! What feelings of pride and joy surge through our hearts to know that, overcoming obstacles that at one time seemed almost insurmountable, here we have arrived at the time when, thanks to a long pull and a strong pull, we have achieved the Victory, and the world is at peace, we hope, for ever. For almost six stern years we have battled on—at one time alone against a seemingly overpowering enemy—but Providence and the stout hearts and confidence of our leaders and the willing efforts of the rank and file in all spheres, have brought the Victory which, even a few short months ago, seemed far away. Yes, it is an occasion for celebration, and may the world never know again the maelstrom of agony, destruction, and horror which has beset us during those long years. Hats off to the Allies for the greatest Victory the world has ever known—let it be superseded only by their efforts to win the Peace and make the world what it can and must be. And, even though our hearts

hearts are full to overflowing with joy and pride and thankfulness, at such a time our thoughts turn to those who have made the supreme sacrifice, to those who have suffered and are still suffering, and to those who have lost their nearest and dearest. We pay tribute to them all now—we must pay tribute to them always by seeing that justice is done and that their sacrifice is not forgotten.

Muirkirk may have been slow in getting into her stride for the VE celebrations, but this cannot be said of the VJ demonstrations. The glad news on Friday that Japan was ready to surrender sent a joyful thrill through all, and so preparations were at once set in motion for a celebration worthy of the occasion. The children were probably first of their mark, because within a short time of the news being received they were busy collecting material for a bonfire. Other plans were formulated, and speculation was rife about when the much-hoped-for announcement would come through. When it did come through the radio on Tuesday night it was not long before all and sundry were taking part in a demonstration of joy. Bells were rung, the street lights blazed into full brilliance, the air raid siren sounded its cacophony with a seemingly more acceptable note, and soon the streets were filled with a joyful crowd of old and young, and at least one huge bonfire was lit to send a shower of sparks and smoke high into the calm air. The Pipe Band was mustered and paraded the streets, followed by the populace, a dance was started in the Drill hall, and another in the open air at the tap-o'-the-toon. All through a joy-through-Victory celebration, the like of which Muirkirk has never seen before. Yes, it is a time for celebrations—and they continue. The juveniles had a sports meeting yesterday, and the adults to-day are footing it.

23rd August Issue

The great Victory celebrations were continued last Thursday and over the week-end with sports, dances, and general rejoicing. The "tap-o'-the-toon" was well in the van with their celebrations, and an open-air party was a great success. The junction of the Kirkgreen and Bridge Street made an admirable open-air "Palais" and dancing went on with great abandon each evening. Dances in the Drill hall were also packed, and a huge bonfire on Thursday on Burnfoot moor attracted considerable attention. Our local pipers did their bit and put a cheery note in the celebrations, but all through it was a demonstration worthy of the great occasion, and one which we believe was unexcelled anywhere. Thanksgiving services in the Old Parish Church and Wellwood Church on Thursday were well attended, as were the services on Sunday.

RETURNING HOME

The initial Victory celebrations over, it was now a time for the village as a whole, and the relatives in particular, to await the home-coming of our local heroes. Over the weeks there was a great reception for each of the boys when they arrived home, with welcome home dances and parties being the order of the day.

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

There are many disciples of Isaac Walton, but few so skilful surely as Mr David Beck, Wellwood Street. A friend with an interest in statistics took a note of Davie's catches during the season, and, for the 28 days he ventured forth, no fewer than 1,275 trout were caught by his deadly rod. And nothing under seven inches at that.

This is surely a record which will take an immensity of beating in this district.

SEEN AND HEARD

Mr and Mrs Thomas Morrison celebrated their gold wedding on Hogmanay. They were married in Lugar in 1894. Mr Morrison has served on the board of the Co-operative Society for the past fifty years, while he has been president of the Society for the past nineteen years. The couple have had a family of fifteen, of whom five daughters and three sons survive, with 26 grand-children and four great-grand-children.

Successor to Dr Cameron at Muirkirk will be Dr John Weir, Renfrew. He will take up partnership with Dr Frame on 1st February.

Mr Archibald Fairbairn, head gamekeeper on Wellwood Estate, died in February. Mr Fairbairn came from Sanquhar as a young lad and succeeded his father at Wellwood in 1900. He took a keen interest in the district, especially the historic side, and much of his work in this field has been well recorded. Mr Fairbairn was a bachelor and had lived with his elder sister, and it is a coincidence that only three days separated them in death.

The late Mr Thomas Morton's collection of wild birds' eggs has been presented to Muirkirk H.G. School. The collection is quite extensive, and is attractively laid out in a fine showcase.

Mr George Wallace, with a Cumnock lady as partner, won a slow foxtrot dancing competition at Cumnock.

A report from the County Engineer showed that Muirkirk was consuming 195,800 gallons of water per day.

The death was announced of Mr John Richmond, who was Missionary at Kames Mission Church for 15 years. He retired nine years ago, and went to live in Coynton.

Mr John Woodburn, 8 Midhouse Row, was presented with a gold watch by Messrs Baird & Dalmellington to mark the completion of 60 years' service with the Company. Mr Woodburn started work in 1885, when as a lad not 12 years of age, he got his first job at the Brick Works. He was employed there until 1921, when it was closed down at the time of the miners' strike. Since then Mr Woodburn has had various jobs about the Works, and is still carrying on the good work.

Mr Duncan McSkimming, Baird Institute, was appointed greenkeeper at Muirkirk Bowling Club.

Miss Ada Love won a pin-up competition at a dance in the Ironworks Institute.

Mr and Mrs William Lindsay (Mary Bryden), of Hope Villa, Glasgow Road, celebrated their golden wedding on 29th March.

Mr James Phillips, M.A., who was headmaster at Furnace Road for some years before being transferred to Kirkintilloch, died at Lenzie in April. Mr Phillips was followed at Muirkirk by Mr F. J. Gordon, M.A.

The passing of Mr William Gourlay on 6th April severed another old football link. "Wull," as he was affectionately named, was one of the last three surviving members of the old Muirkirk Athletic team which functioned around the years 1891-1895.

The transfer of the public house licence for the Crown Bar was granted to Mr Thomas Murray, Stevenston.

The Picture House in the Temperance Hall, for some years past run by Mr William C. Weir, has been handed over to Mr George Findlay, Cinema Proprietor of Sanquhar and Thornhill. This to take effect from 27th May.

Mr George Lockhart opened a Drapery and Clothing shop in Manse Lane in August.

All gas masks were being handed in at the Police Station in August.

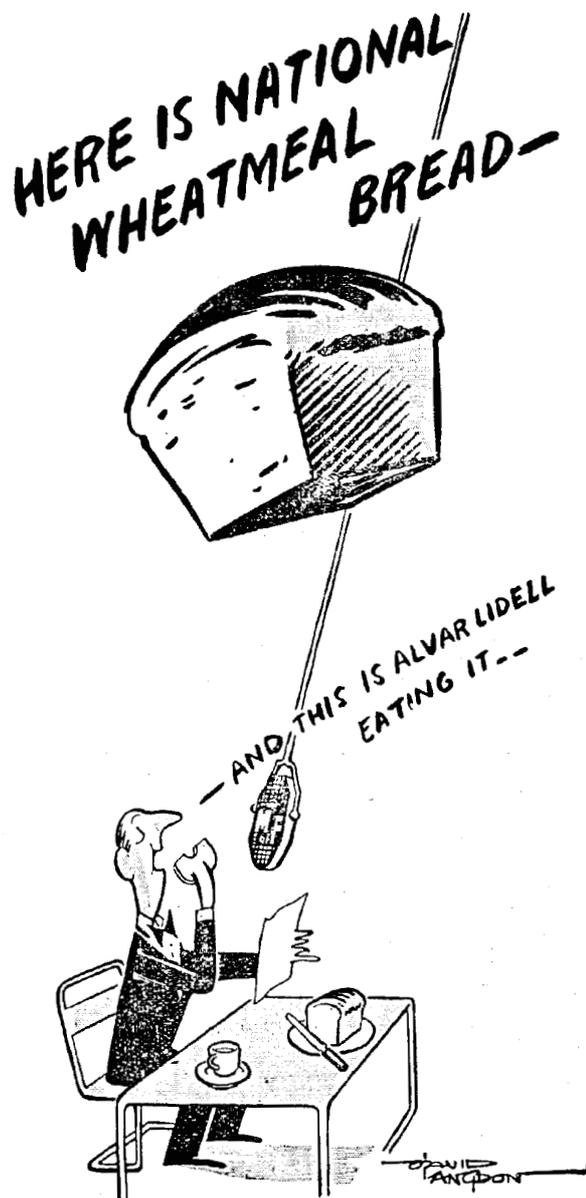
Mr Thomas Waugh, Stationmaster at Muirkirk for six years, was replaced by Mr D. Kerr from Newton-on-Ayr. Mr Kerr, incidentally, is a brother of Mr E. M. Kerr of the Clydesdale Bank here in Muirkirk.

Rev. J. Taylor, Minister at Muirkirk E.U. Church for the past three years has been appointed assistant Minister at Barony Church, Dysart.

A pin-up girl competition at a dance in the Institute was won by Miss Nan Logie. The adjudicator was Hodge Mitchell, recently returned from P.O.W. in the Far East.

Death was announced of Mr Alex. Sloan, M.P., for South Ayrshire. Mr Emrys Hughes was chosen as the Labour Candidate to fight his seat in the impending by-election.

Miss Agnes K. Fairbairn, Wellwood, left £3,920 in her will.



THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, LONDON, S.W.1

FATAL ACCIDENT (22nd Nov. Issue)

A fatal accident occurred at Wellwood Toll on Saturday morning, when a motor cycle and a private car were in collision. The cyclist, David Beck, 40 years of age, residing at 106 Main Street, was killed instantly, and while the driver of the car, James Turner, 20 Afton Crescent, New Cumnock, escaped injury, his brother Andrew, who was travelling with him, sustained multiple injuries and had to have a large number of stitches inserted in his face. The prowess of David Beck as an angler was well known—we referred to his catches during the recent trout season only a few weeks ago—and he was on his way to indulge in his favourite sport when the accident took place. Widespread sympathy has been expressed with his widow and three children left behind.

THE LATE MR D. BECK

The fishing world has suffered a great loss by the passing of Davie Beck. He was without doubt the greatest angler of all time in the Parish of Muirkirk. In Club competitions he won the Cup on several occasions before retiring from same, having no peer. An ardent worker for his Club, he was always watchful that the club rules were administered to the full. One cannot but say he was a genius—

“But facts are chieils that winna ding,
An downa' be disputed.”

As a boy at school his interest in this sphere of sport was marked, and keen enthusiasm and minute study well earned for him the name of the master. Irrespective of weather or water conditions, Davie always maintained that fish were like the human race—they must eat to live, and he knew what they liked!

On one occasion, when asked the secret of his success, he replied—“Fish fine and wire in!” The poet has well said:—

“Aye free, aff haun', your story tell,
When wi' a bosom crony;
But still keep something tae yersel'
An' scarcely tell tae ony.”

He used chiefly his own make of tackle, especially the fly, and his craftsmanship in this latter art vied with his fishing ability. One has cause to wonder if he will ever have an equal.

A memorial will be laid on the grave as a token of respect from his fishing associates.

WILLIAM D. SMITH

ECHO FROM THE PAST

Mr John Wilson, pioneer of the Gala 'bus service in our district in 1925, and who has been in charge of the local depot since the Gala Co. was taken over by the Central S.M.T. some 13 or 14 years ago, retires on 22nd December. Mention of Mr Wilson's retiral recalls the good old days of “Big Aggie,” the familiar old-type charabanc with a door for every seat, a moveable canvas hood, and a running board along its entire length, on which the conductor walked while the 'bus was in motion to collect the fares. Memories of the ploys which used to take place on “Aggie” on the Glenbuck journey make the modern 'bus journey seem pale, with perhaps the exception of the Muirkirk-Cumnock run on the top of an almost empty double-decker! At anyrate, Mr Wilson played his part in developing the service of 'bus travel in our district. He is still a comparatively young man, and we wish him well in his retirement.

KILLED IN ACTION

The sad news reached Muirkirk in Feb. that John England, one of our local lads in service in Italy, and son of Mr & Mrs Fred England, Middlefield Drive, had been killed in action.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1944

Births—63 as against 73 last year.
Marriages—22 as against 40 in 1943.
Deaths—36 as against 58 previously.

THE WEATHER (1st Feb. Issue)

Severe weather marked the closing days of January. On top the big freeze, the full-blown snowstorm on Monday blocked all the roads, and a number of 'buses had to be abandoned at various points. Heavy drifts of snow caused the trouble, and much shovelling was done on Tuesday to clear the roads and footpaths. What with frozen and burst pipes and traffic dislocation, most folks had an unpleasant time, but a welcome thaw since has eased the situation considerably. Rail traffic was able to carry on as usual, and some folks who had perforce to spend Monday night elsewhere were able to return on Tuesday by this means.

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
SOUTH AYRSHIRE RESULT**

A. SLOAN, Labour	21,235
Lt.-Col. MATHEW, Unionist	13,382
	Majority for Mr Sloan 7,853

LAMBS CHOPPED!

It's an ill wind that blows nobody good, it is said, and some Southsiders found this to be the case on Wednesday of last week (10th October), when they had their meat ration unexpectedly augmented through an unfortunate accident on the pug line leading from the Kames Pit. A number of sheep were being driven along the line, when the pug, pushing a line of waggons, approached. Unfortunately, the driver was unsighted, by a bend in the line, and fully a dozen of the animals were killed or were so badly mutilated that they had to be destroyed. The carcasses which were of use were dressed on the spot, and we hear there was quite an abundance of mutton in some homes over the weekend.

THANKSGIVING WEEK

This year's savings and investments campaign was given the above title, and the Muirkirk target was set at £10,000. The campaign got off to a rather indifferent start, as the following table shows, but a spurt on the last two days proved most satisfying.

The day-to-day totals were:—

Saturday	£2475	1	6
Monday	3259	8	0
Tuesday	3717	13	6
Wednesday	3927	14	6
Thursday	4800	0	0
Friday	9754	12	6
Saturday	(Grand Total) £10,974	6	0

JAMES GIBSON

commenced a
Gent.'s Hairdressing Business
AT 89 MAIN STREET
on 1st November

LOCAL STATISTICS, 1945**BIRTHS**

- McDOUGALL.—At Hedgegrove on 29th December, 1944, to Mr and Mrs W. McDougall (Anne Dempster); a son.
- EATON.—At Kirkgreen on 8th February to Mr and Mrs D. Eaton (Margaret Barrie); a daughter
- FINLAY.—At Edinburgh on 7th February to Mr and Mrs W. Finlay (Margaret Paterson); a son.
- PARK.—At Motherwell on 11th February to Mr and Mrs David Park (Nancy Hughes); a daughter.
- TWYMAN.—At Ramsgate on 13th February to Mr and Mrs J. B. Twyman (Agnes Dempster); a son.
- HIBBERD.—At Glasgow on 23rd February to Mr and Mrs G. Hibberd (May Adamson); a son.
- WYPER.—At Irvine on 18th March to Mr and Mrs Peter Wyper (Ray Logie); a daughter.
- WILSON.—At Irvine on 18th March to Mr and Mrs Logie Wilson; a son.
- ANGUS.—At 28 Middlefield Drive to Mr and Mrs Wm. Angus (Mary Rowan); a daughter.
- BARRIE.—At Mansefield, Muirkirk, on 3rd April to Mr and Mrs Jackie Barrie (Agnes McLatchie); a daughter.
- DODDS.—At Scarborough on 3rd April to Mr and Mrs James Dodds (Edith Graves); a daughter.
- PALMER.—At Blyth's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 12th April, to Mr and Mrs John Palmer (Annie Murdoch); a son.
- HOWIE.—At Glasgow on 19th June to Dr and Mrs George Howie (Ina Henderson); a daughter.
- RICHMOND.—At Greenockmains on 25th December to Mr and Mrs C. Richmond (Agnes Lindsay); a son.

MARRIAGES

- WILLIAM JACKSON to HELEN LOGIE on 29th December, 1944.
- JOHN MUNRO to MARY BICKERTON on 29th December, 1944
- HUGH QUIGLEY to DORIS SHARPLING on 22nd January.
- JOHN MUIR to HELEN MARSHALL on 6th February.
- WILLIAM PATERSON to MARGARET MORAN on 7th February.
- ROBERT BURNSIDE to ELIZABETH DAVIDSON on 2nd March.
- ALFRED PENHALIGAN to MARION DOW on 2nd March.
- LAURENCE BROWN to NELLIE RAMSDEN on 17th March.
- GEORGE DODDS to MARY SINCLAIR on 16th March.
- ROBERT STRICKLAND to ELIZABETH FREW on 16th March.
- CHARLES AITKINSON to MARY MUNCIE on 24th March.
- HAROLD SEY to JANET MUNCIE on 7th April.
- PETER DODDS to ELIZABETH HARRIGAN on 27th April.
- JAMES JOHNSTONE to JEANNIE BAIN on 22nd June.
- EDWARD SOUTHGATE to JEAN BROWN on 18th June.
- THOMAS WARDEN to RHODA CROSBIE on 22nd June.
- WILLIAM McCALL to MARION BEESLEY on 30th June.
- GEORGE TOWNSEAND to JENNY CRAWFORD on 29th June.
- THOMAS GRAY to EUNICE RIDGWAY on 13th July.

- JAMES HAMILTON to MARGARET POTTS on 8th July.
- THOMAS TAIT to BARBARA HODGE on 13th July.
- DAVID McMATH to JANET MITCHELL on 10th August.
- HUGH HARDIE to MARGARET NEILSON on 23rd August.
- JAMES McGARRY to ELIZABETH MACKIN on 7th August.
- DOUGLAS CROSBIE to JANET YOUNG on 12th September.
- JOHN DALZIEL to CHARLOTTE MATHIESON on 8th September.
- WILLIAM BLACKWOOD to AGNES NIVEN on 26th September.
- THOMAS McDOUGALL to JANET RENTON on 26th September.
- JOSEPH MONTGOMERY to VITTORENA DA'ORATO on 28th September.
- JIM McCORIE to NANCY HODGSON on 6th October.
- LESTER POOLE to ANNE JOHNSTONE on 3rd October.
- W. MACKERRELL to NAN GORDON on 17th October.
- JOHN McMANUS to IRENE NICHOLLS on 7th November.
- THOMAS BARR to JANE BAILLIE on 10th November.
- JOHN McCOLL to JESSIE CROSBIE on 24th November.
- GILBERT McGARVA to MARGARET TAIT on 30th November.
- HUGH WELSH to JENNY QUEEN on 14th December.

DEATHS

- BONE.—At Kilmarnock on 8th January, Annie Bone, aged 18 years.
- BONE.—At Braehead Cottage, Glenbuck, on 11th January, Joan Currie, aged 62 years.
- STITT.—At Holm Farm, Glenbuck, on 12th January, Janet Brown, aged 79 years.
- BARRIE.—At 123 Main Street on 23rd January, Mary Love.
- McVAY.—At Roxburgh Place on 21st January, John McVay.
- BRADFORD.—At 13 Wellwood Avenue on 31st January, Margaret Connor, aged 58 years.
- DODDS.—At Newmilns, wee John Dodds.
- FLEMING.—At Glasgow on 25th January, Thomas Fleming, aged 30 years.
- FULTON.—At 51 Springhill Terrace on 28th January, Jessie Jack, aged 75 years.
- CALDOW.—At 117 Main Street on 4th February, William Caldwell, aged 78 years.
- MORTON.—At 4 Wellwood Crescent on 14th February, Thomas Morton, aged 87 years.
- BUCHANAN.—On active service in Italy on 17th December, 1944, Major Neil Buchanan (late of Muirkirk).
- WARD.—At Millport on 21st February, Elizabeth Ward, aged 8½ years (of Whyte's Row, Glenbuck).
- ENGLAND.—Killed on active service in Italy on 14th February, John England (of Middlefield Drive).
- RAE.—At 140 Main Street on 28th February, Samuel Rae, aged 78 years.
- BRADY.—At 20 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 8th March, Elizabeth Mitchell, aged 63 years.
- MURPHY.—At 164 Main Street on 8th March, William Murphy, aged 56 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

BAIN.—At Kerr's Buildings, Glenbuck, on 18th March, Thomas Bain, aged 81 years.

McDOUGALL.—In Hospital on 20th March, William McDougall, aged 71 years (of Wellwood Avenue).

ROSS.—At Ayr on 20th March, Malcolm Ross.

BLYTH.—At Glasgow on 5th April, David Blyth, aged 62 years (late of Glenbuck).

GOURLAY.—At Glasgow on 6th April, William Gourlay, aged 79 years (of 10 Bridge Street).

DUNSMORE.—At Ayr on 21st April, Robert Dunsmore, aged 44 years (of 4 Springhill Terrace).

HENDRY.—At Paisley on 19th April, Robert Hendry.

HOLDEN.—At 14 Middlefield Drive on 23rd April, Joseph Holden, aged 77 years.

ROSS.—Died of wounds in Italy on 20th April, Malcolm Ross, aged 21 years.

SOMERVILLE.—In New York on 9th April, Mary Somerville, aged 75 years.

BAND.—At Perth on 13th May, Christina Watson, 46 years (late of Glenbuck).

MILLIKEN.—At Co-operative Buildings, Glenbuck, on 11th May, Margaret Crosbie, aged 69 years.

RENNIE.—At 46 Garronhill on 21st June, Janet Davidson (relict of Robert Rennie, Eagle Tavern), aged 91 years.

BURNSIDE.—At Mauchline on 24th June, Robert Burnside, aged 78 years.

ANDERSON.—At 18 Midhouse Terrace on 15th July, Annie Anderson, aged 50 years.

SPENCE.—At 22 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 13th July, Jessie McNaughton, aged 83 years.

McCOURBRIE.—At 4 Grasshill Rowe, Glenbuck, on 21st July, Hugh McCoubrie, aged 61 years.

McMEEKIN.—At Castle Douglas on 2nd August, Samuel McMeekin.

BECK.—At Wellwood Street on 14th August, Agnes Park, aged 68 years.

WALLACE.—At 38 New Terrace on 16th August, James Wallace, aged 52 years.

WILLOCK.—At 12 Main Street on 19th August, Rebecca Gordon, aged 72 years.

SAMSON.—At 141 Main Street on 6th September, Robert Samson, aged 70 years.

BROWN.—At Trabboch on 9th September, Janet Wilcox, aged 43 years (of 132 Main Street).

McCANN.—At Kirkgreen on 1st October, Catherine McCann, aged 24 years.

McSKIMMING.—Lost on air operations on 3rd February, now officially presumed to have lost his life on that date, Andrew McSkimming (of Garronhill House), aged 19 years.

GIBSON.—At Lanark on 29th October, John Gibson, aged 82 years.

SYMINGTON.—At 4 Smallburn on 13th November, Emily Bowerman, aged 79 years.

BECK.—Accidentally killed on 17th November, David Beck, aged 40 years (of 106 Main Street).

BENNIE.—At 42 Garronhill on 21st November, John Bennie, aged 79 years.

BROWN.—At 10 Victoria Buildings on 23rd November, Marion Fleming, aged 65 years.

FERGUSON.—In U.S.A. on 1st December, Johnnie Ferguson (late of Glenbuck).

HANNAH.—At Kilmarnock on 28th November, Margaret Hogg.

MORRAN.—At Glasgow on 9th December, Margaret McCrone (late of Muirkirk).

BROWN.—At 116 Main Street on 17th December, James Brown (Fruiterer).

PETERS.—At 64 The Square on 10th December, John Peters.

SAMSON.—At 43 Kames Row on 13th December, George Samson, aged 6 months.

COLLIERY CANTEEN OPENED

The canteen at Kames Colliery, a brick adjunct to the Baths building, was opened in December. The Canteen is fitted with the latest cooking equipment and has seating capacity for 64 persons. At present dinners are being provided for day-shift workers, and the menu of soup, meat and vegetables, pudding, and a cup of tea to follow if desired is arousing favourable comment. This is evinced by the growing popularity of the Canteen, for within a week the number taking advantage of the service has risen from 40 to 120, and is likely to keep on increasing. The cost of the dinner described is 1/3, and the staff at present consists of four girls. After the New Year holidays it is hoped to cater for all shifts, with breakfast for the night shift and dinners twice a day to suit the day and afternoon shifts.

FOOTBALL

Muirkirk Junior F.C. were getting their house in order for the opening of the 1945-46 season, in which they would be making their return after the war break. There will be a full report of the season's activities in the next Chapter, but here are some notes of interest from the 1st March Issue:—

Alec Linwood, whose short but brilliant junior career with Muirkirk Juniors is often referred to, must be one of the most popular centre-forwards in Scottish Senior football. Here is what "Waverley" writes about him in yesterday's "Daily Record":—

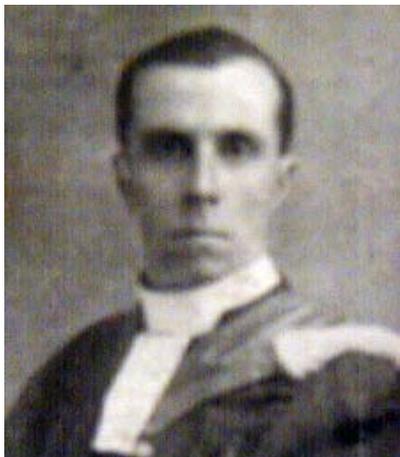
Where there's Linwood, there's hope. This may not have been said by St. Mirren fans, but it is how they feel. So the news that Alec Linwood has made a "miraculous" recovery from his injury at Fir Park, and may be out against Motherwell at Love Street, is good. Alec Linwood is the correct type. He plays fair, he gets goals—17 in the Southern League last season, 14 in the previous. As clippy a goal as ever he scored was the one that beat Rangers in the Summer Cup final of 1943—on of the sort a goalkeeper sees coming but just cannot do anything about it. Had Alec Linwood always been favoured with the right support, his goals—and St. Mirren's victories—would have mounted. Although not a starter in every Southern League game this season, his goal crop numbers 21. He specialises in 2's.

Incidentally, Willie Boland was out with Celtic's first against Falkirk on Saturday, so that, with Bob Shankly in his usual place for Falkirk, our district had an interest in both teams. Willie collected Celtic's goal with a commendable effort, and Bob played his consistently reliable game in defence.

CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE

(1946)

THE LATE JOHN HENDERSON, B.D.



While attending a Sunday School party in the Masonic Hall on Friday (25th January), the Rev. John Henderson, B.D., Minister of Muirkirk Old Parish Church, collapsed. He was conveyed to his home at the Manse, where he passed away the following evening, without having regained consciousness. The loss of such a man and such an enthusiast is keenly felt, and widespread sympathy is being expressed with Mrs Henderson and the family, so suddenly bereaved. The funeral took place to Muirkirk Cemetery on Tuesday, and Rev. A. M. McKirdie, Lugar, officiated at the service in the Manse.

There was a huge congregation at the public service which followed in the Church, and which was conducted by the Rev. J. U. Ogilvy, M.A., Moderator of the Presbytery of Ayr, assisted by Rev. William John, joint clerk to the Presbytery. The coffin was carried slowly up the aisle to the Choir platform, where it was placed in front of the pulpit, and after the service was borne reverently from the Church, during the playing of the "Dead March in Saul" by Mr Fulton, to complete the journey to the last resting place. Elders of the Church and from Kames Church were the bearers. It was a deeply impressive, moving service.

The funeral was attended by a large and very representative company, ranging from our young boys' organisations to old friends. The Presbytery of Ayr was largely represented, and the brief service at the graveside was conducted by Rev. Andrew Burnett, New Cumnock.

AN APPRECIATION

"He's awa'!" The simple, poignant significant Scots phrase, ay, lament, brought it home to us, only too truly, on Saturday night that we had lost one who, as a Minister and a friend, will perhaps never be replaced. The call was sudden and complete. Was it not fitting, even characteristic, that it should come in the midst of his activities? Amidst the happy, joyous laughter of the children at a Sunday School party on Friday it came—the sudden collapse of a figure we knew and loved so well, to be followed next evening by the farewell so common to us all—the crossing of the bourne from which no traveller returns. So sudden, yet, perhaps, so appropriate.

The names of Muirkirk and Rev. John Henderson were synonymous. In September, 1910, when he was inducted as

Parish Minister, he would be termed an incomer; in January, 1946, can we not say, in all sincerity, that we have lost a part of Muirkirk? His ministerial activities are known to every member of his congregation. Knowledge of his public work is fresh and ripe within the minds of every Muirkirker,

He came to the Parish a young man with a brilliant record. A native of Morebattle in Roxburghshire, the son of an old parochial schoolmaster, he was sent at the age of 15 to face the bursary competition at Edinburgh University—created a record of which to be proud. He gained the Sir Walter Scott Bursary of £120, the Simpson Bursary of £75, and a Gunning Scholarship of £40, besides prizes and honours certificates in every class he attended, and eventually the Degrees of Master of Arts and Bachelor of Divinity.

His ministerial career brought further achievement. At Cowdenbeath he started with a congregation of 120; when he left to come to Muirkirk it stood at 600. At Cowdenbeath, too, his keen interest in public affairs was manifest. He was President of Cowdenbeath Literary Society, a member of Beath School Board, and, a keen sportsman, he was a leading official and player of Cowdenbeath Cricket Club.

When he came to Muirkirk away back in 1910, he himself said at the time of his induction that he hoped his presence here would be for his own spiritual good and the good of the Parish, and we can say in all sincerity, that it was indeed a grand day for Muirkirk when "The Minister" was accorded a hearty welcome on that bright September day, so long ago. He became a figure-head in our community life—on the old School Board, as Chairman of the Parish Council, as Convener of the Education Committee of the County of Ayr, as District Councillor and County Councillor he played his part, fearlessly, and with heart and soul in all he did. During the Great War his whole-hearted endeavours made Muirkirk the most generous Parish in Ayrshire for war charities; during the war just ended his leadership of the Woman's War Guild has helped them to achievements of which we can be justly proud.

Yes, John Henderson had a path in life—a path from which he never deviated. His was a forceful personality—he was blunt and brusque, a man of passion, if you like; his word was his bond; he was a fighter and a mixer—no Minister could get closer to the ordinary man like you and me; but withal he had the qualities we look for in "The Minister." And at the Manse the hospitality of Rev. John Henderson and his good lady was something to experience and to cherish.

We remember his heart-warming, sparkling wit on occasions of rejoicing; his comforting, steadying influence in times of sorrow and bereavement; his calm optimism when world affairs brought dread and misgiving to the heart; and we will never forget that last, stately farewell of mortal remains to the Church he loved so well.

Muirkirk will remember the Rev. John Henderson. Of him it can be truly said—

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr and Mrs Robert Thomson, 15 Furnace Road, attained their 50th wedding anniversary on Hogmanay, they being married at Newmilns on 31st December, 1895. Mr Thomson is a native of Muirkirk, and a well-known figure in our district, having carried on business for forty years as a general merchant from his premises in Furnace Road, and he covered a wide area extending from Leadhills and Sanquhar on the one side to Mauchline on the other. Mrs Thomson (Agnes Richmond) is a product of Newmilns. The couple had a family of four, of whom two daughters and one son (in the R.A.F.) survive.

SEEN AND HEARD

Bombardier Robert Masterton, proprietor of the Empire Bar, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

The death was announced of Mrs Catherine Fearon, who was for over 20 years headmistress of St. Thomas' R.C. School.

Another reminder of war has gone—the air raid shelters at Carruthers Park, Victory Park, and Linkieburn have all been torn down, and the bricks will in all probability be used for some more peaceful purpose. Happily, our shelters were never used.

The grocery business of David Crosbie has been transferred to his sons, Walter and Douglas Crosbie.

The British Empire Medal was awarded to Mr James Bradford, 1 Springhill Terrace, for services to industry. Mr Bradford, a coal-getter at Kames Colliery, had been in the industry for 43 years.

And still more medals for Muirkirk! Mr Thomas Gray, Main Street, and Mr Alex. Lindsay have been awarded the Military Medal for services to their country.

Dr. T. B. Marshall, who practised here in Muirkirk for several years prior to the Great War, passed away at his home in Wishaw.

Archie Mitchell commenced in business as a Household Decorator from his premises at 10 Furnace Road in April.

Mr Robert Munro, B.Sc., Kilmarnock, has been appointed as Headmaster at Muirkirk H.G. School in place of Mr McCreadie, who moves on to Ayr.

Mr A. Hindshaw, Largs, who is taking over the Masons Arms Hotel from Mr and Mrs C. Weir, was granted a transfer of licence. Mr Douglas Crosbie was granted a licensed grocers' certificate in lieu of his father, and Mr George Bain Glenbuck, was also granted a certificate in place of his father. The application of Mr Robert Kirkwood for a licensed grocers certificate was refused, and in view of the recent closing down of the Ironworks Store, and the consequent relinquishment of that licence, a good deal of public surprise and dissatisfaction is being expressed by this refusal.

George Brown and James Paterson opened a Light Engineering Works at 51 Glasgow Road.

Votes were taken re a union of the two local Churches, when the result at the Old Parish Church showed 63—54 in favour, while at Wellwood Church it was 22—11 against.

Sweeping alterations took place at Muirkirk Gas Works with the installation of the very latest equipment, and as a result Muirkirk is enjoying a better quality of gas.

William Anderson, Jr., started a motor hiring business at 48 Glasgow Road.

William Wallace, Boot Repairer, Victoria Buildings, announced his retiral.

Mr Walter Borthwick, Greenside, transferred his dairy business to William Ramage, Royal George.

The Victory celebrations were marked with a gala and sports day at Victory Park, with dances and bonfires in the evening.

The Dux at Muirkirk H.G. School this year is Elizabeth Rorrison; while the sports champions are Gilbert McKay and Mary Clark.

In July William McDougall, Fishmonger, opened his premises at 77 Main Street.

At the same time W. B. R. Girvan, 51 Main Street, was advertising Motor Hiring.

Mr F. Melrose, Chemist, intimated the transfer of his business at Victoria Buildings to Mr James Auld.

Mr Sloan, Headmaster at Glenbuck, was transferred to Cronberry; and the Glenbuck Minister, Rev. D. Baird was transferred to Lochgoilhead.

Work is proceeding at Ladeside Park with the erection of an enclosure, and we understand that 15,000 bricks from the old Wellwood School were used for the foundations.

The opencast at Skew Bridge was in full operation, and a railway siding was under construction.

Muirkirk's well-known Postman, Mr Harry Stacey, retired. Mr Stacey originally came to Muirkirk in 1914 as Drill Instructor to the Territorials, and has been with the Post Office for about 20 years.

After 12 years as Infant Mistress at Furnace Road School, Miss Mary Brown is leaving to take up another appointment. During that time Miss Brown never lost a day through illness. Miss Elizabeth Rae, Kirkburnhead, was appointed in her place.

Mr George Rowe, of Townhead Garage, has been Mentioned in Dispatches for service in the field in Burma.

Mr T. Stewart commenced business as a Shoe Repairer at 20 Victoria Buildings in October.



Rev. T. DONALDSON BARR, M.A.

was inducted as Minister of Muirkirk Old Parish Church on 16th October

THE AULD STORE

For probably well over 100 years the "Auld Store" has been a familiar establishment in the everyday life of generations of Muirkirk's housewives. In the days of the blast furnaces and the forge and mill, especially, it would be one of our busiest stores for the distribution of food, drink, and raiment for the workers and their families. Now, it is to be no more; with the end of this month Muirkirk Ironworks Co-operative Society will cease to exist. The decision to close down has been arrived at, we understand, through declining membership and business. Just another change, perhaps, in the march of time, but no doubt the "Auld Store" will continue to hold a place in the memories of old Muirkirk.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1945

Births—66, as against 63 the previous year.

Marriages—36, as against 22.

Deaths—39, as against 36 in 1944.

FOOTBALL (Season 1945-46)

After the war break Muirkirk Juniors played their first League game at Auchinleck and returned worthy winners by four goals to three. Team was:—Hill; Muir, Owens; Davidson, McAtee, McGhee; Walker Steele, Donoghue, Nelson, Dick.

The Juniors had a cracker of a tie in the first round of the Scottish Cup when Irvine Meadow were the visitors to Ladeside Park. In a rousing encounter Muirkirk won 5—2. The team was:—Hill; Muir, Owens; Davidson, McAtee, McGhee; Russell, Steele, Donoghue, Nelson, Vallance.

In the second round of the Scottish Cup Muirkirk were away to Cumnock, and the game ended in a 1—1 draw. Then in mid-week Jim Steele signed for Kilmarnock.

The second replay took place at Rosebank Park, Lugar, in front of a large crowd. It was a good game, with Muirkirk playing the better football, but Cumnock took their chances and won by 2—1. The Muirkirk team was:—Hill; Muir, Owens; Davidson, McAtee, Nelson; Davis, Cochrane, Donoghue, Steele, Walker.

Despite the "Scottish" set back Muirkirk enjoyed a good season, and it was early in January before they lost their first home game, against Cumnock in a Vernon Trophy tie, by the score of 3—2. The report says Cumnock were a lucky team!

Willie Boland was re-instated from Celtic and signed for Muirkirk Juniors.

Muirkirk that season set a hot pace in the League, and went 14 games without defeat, and when they played their last game they had lost only one game—some achievement

However, their quest for silverware was not so fruitful. They lost to Saltcoats Victoria in the semi-final of the Western League Cup.

To decide the League Championship Muirkirk met the winners of the North Section, Saltcoats Victoria, at Ladeside Park, in the first stage of a home-and-home tie. The game ended in a 1—1 draw. In the second game at Saltcoats both teams served up a real cracker, which finished 1—1.

The third game was played at Stevenston when Saltcoats emerged worthy winners by 3—1. The Muirkirk team was:—Hill; Neil, Owens; McAtee, Hendry, Boland; Sproat, Cochrane, Kelly, McGowan, McFarlane.

After two drawn games Riccarton Bluebell beat Muirkirk 1-0 in the semi-final of the Moore Trophy, and it was the same story in the final of the Vernon Trophy—they drew the first game with Annbank United, and lost the replay 2—1, this being the final game of the season. The team on that occasion was:—Galloway; Neil, Owens; Boland, Baxter, King; Phillips, Stewart, Sproat, McGowan, Kelly.

And so, what had started out as a very promising season for Muirkirk Juniors ended in bitter disappointment, and from all reports the Muirkirk supporters were not a happy lot!

PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION
SOUTH AYRSHIRE

HUGHES, Emrys (Labour) 20,434
 MATHEW, Robert (Conservative) 11,705

Majority for Labour 8,729

TODAY'S QUOTE

"God made the world in six days, and then He rested. He then made man, and rested again. He then made woman, and since then neither man, woman, nor anything else has rested."

THE RAILWAY STATION

In answer to a query regarding the railway station, the following information was given:—The Railway Station we think was built in the year 1896-97, as it is referred to in the "Christmas Advertiser" of that year as follows:—

Railway Station, foremost place,
 Tunnel entrance pure disgrace.

Another interesting verse in the same effort is—

Buildings new, handsome Bank,
 Sure to take foremost rank,
 Meikle's Buildings, Townhead Store,
 Improve Muirkirk more and more.

It may be mentioned that the old Station buildings, including the Stationmaster's residence were in the same building (where the Stationmaster's house now stands), and the waggons from Kames Pit had to pass over the G. & S.W. line in front of the office. With the removal of the platform at the old Station another set of rails was laid down there so that the waggons could be brought to the Company's lye without any interference from the G. & S.W. Coy., and the offices were turned into a dwellinghouse for another employee.

CROSBIE

has a

**Splendid Selection
of Points Goods.**

1 lb. Tins Stewed Steak,	1/8 and 16 points.
Sliced Meat, 2/6 lb. and	24 points.
1 lb. Tins Meat and Veg. Dinners,	11½d and 4 points.
3¼ oz. Tins Sardines,	4½d and 2 points.
Porridge Oats,	9d and 4 points.
Wheat Flakes,	5½d and 2 points.
All Bran,	7½d and 3 points.
Large Green Peas,	10d and 2 points.
Split Peas,	5d and 2 points.
Extra Good Beans,	6d and 2 points.
Pot Barley, Semolina,	Free of points.

110 Main Street,
 Muirkirk.

'Phone 32

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1946**BIRTHS**

- ANDERSON.—At Glasgow on 17th April to Mr and Mrs William Anderson (Marion Millar); a son.
- WILSON.—At Kilmarnock on 18th April to Mr and Mrs C. Wilson (Belle Morton); a daughter
- GRAY.—At Irvine on 18th April to Mr and Mrs Thomas Gray (Eunice Ridgway); a son.
- KIRKLAND.—At Birmingham on 22nd April to Mr and Mrs J. Kirkland (Colthart); a daughter.
- WARDEN.—At Irvine on 19th May to Mr and Mrs T. Warden (Rhoda Crosbie); a son.
- WALLACE.—At Ayr on 21st May to Mr and Mrs John Wallace (Ina Johnstone); a daughter.
- SHORT.—At Newcastle on 31st May to Mr and Mrs Hugh Short (Selina Holmes); a son.
- CRAWFORD.—At Irvine on 10th July to Mr and Mrs Norman Crawford (Isabel Angus); a son.
- SHIELDS.—At Kilmarnock on 3rd August to Mr and Mrs Hugh Shields (Margaret Peat); a daughter.
- DOSWELL.—At Norman's Bay on 4th September to Mr and Mrs G. Doswell (Isabel Weir); a daughter.
- McGARVA.—At Douglas on 18th October to Mr and Mrs Gilbert McGarva (Margaret Tait); a daughter.
- KING.—At Glasgow on 27th October to Mr and Mrs Christopher King; a son.

MARRIAGES

- JAMES SMITH to AGNES CROSBIE on 6th February.
- ALFRED PINFOLD to HELEN BARRIE on 19th March.
- WILLIAM COOK to JEANIE RAE on 29th March.
- WILLIAM MARTIN to MARY ADDISON on 10th April.
- WILLIAM DEVINE to NAN McCRAW on 27th April.
- GRAHAM HADDEN to AGNES ALLAN on 21st June.
- WILLIAM BRADFORD to DOROTHY LOCKYER on 29th June.
- RONALD BULL to MARY MORAN on 9th July.
- HENRY LOGAN to BETTY QUEEN on 13th July.
- JOHN KERR to MARGARET HOWIE on 17th July.
- JOHN BROWN to JEAN FINDLAY on 10th August.
- JAMES BALMER to MARGARET HODGE on 9th August.
- THOMAS YOUNG to MARGARET JACKSON on 9th August.
- JOHN BONE to DOROTHY STIBBS on 5th August.
- THOMAS ROBB to RACHEL CROSBIE on 13th September.
- WILLIAM DURIS to MARY MASTERTON on 20th September.
- JOHN KENNEDY to MARGARET McCORRIE on 18th September
- GORRIE NICOL to ISOBEL HOGG on 21st September.
- ROBERT GRAY to MARY WALLACE on 11th October.
- WALTER CRIOSBIE to CHRISTINA FLEMING on 6th Nov.
- THOMAS GRANT to SARAH FINDLAY on 1st November.
- DOUG. ORMISTON to ELIZABETH SAMSON on 2nd Nov.
- JAMES RENTON to GEORGINA GEMMELL on 9th November

DEATHS

- LOGGIE.—At Rigside on 15th Jan., Grace Ferguson, aged 78 years.
- BRADFORD.—At Auchinleck on 17th Jan., Mary Jack, aged 68 years
- BELL.—At 14 Park Terrace on 31st Jan., John Bell, aged 95 years.
- CALDOW.—At Dalbeattie on 20th Feb., Janet Nimmo, aged 77 years.
- McCULLOCH.—At Haystackhill on 6th March, James McCulloch, aged 78 years.
- WHITE.—At Alloway on 20th March, Elizabeth Hamilton, aged 81

- GRAHAM.—At Girvan on 13th June, Agnes Blackwood (late of Nessville, Wellwood Street).
- SHIELDS.—At Irvine on 10th June, Thomas Shields, aged 7 years.
- STEVENSON.—In Canada on 6th March, Thomson Stevenson, aged 69 years (late of Glenbuck).
- DE SYKES.—At 44 Linkieburn on 6th April, Mary Statelik, aged 71 years.
- MORAN.—At 71 The Square on 4th April, William Moran, aged 63 years.
- RUSSELL.—At Smallburn on 5th April, William Russell, aged 68 years.
- PATERSON.—At Midhouse on 21st April, Agnes Woods, aged 63 years.
- BELL.—At 12 Midhouse Terrace on 30th April, Andrew Bell, aged 44 years.
- HIBBERD.—At Falkirk on 23rd April, Margaret Hibberd, aged 13 years.
- MILLER.—At Glasgow on 29th April, David Miller, aged 77 years (of 27 Kames Row).
- GIRDWOOD.—At Irvine on 17th May, Helen McCall, aged 32 years (of 4 Main Street).
- HUGHES.—At Ayr on 16th May, Mary Steele, aged 58 years (of 33 Garronhill).
- McKEAN.—At Yorkhill on 11th May, Ian McKean, aged 9 years (of 25 Midhouse Row).
- CAMPBELL.—At 12 Kames Row on 26th May, Hugh Campbell, aged 72 years.
- GILLEN.—At Glasgow on 24th May, Andrew Gillen, aged 33 years.
- MURRAY.—At Glasgow on 18th May, Elizabeth Murdoch, aged 59 years (of Railway Buildings).
- BONE.—At 4 Whyte's Row, Glenbuck, on 20th June, Mary Copeland.
- JACK.—At Kilsyth on 23rd June, William Jack, retired engine-driver, aged 73 years (late of Smallburn).
- JACK.—At Jack's Buildings on 4th July, George Jack, aged 37 years.
- KILLOCH.—At Victoria Buildings on 27th July, Mary Murray, aged 62 years.
- MILLAR.—Accidentally killed on 7th August, James Millar, aged 9 years (of Inglewood, Wellwood Street).
- STEELE.—At Knoweview on 5th August, Janet Hendry.
- HUGHES.—At Irvine on 14th August, Samuel Hughes, aged 11 weeks (of 33 Garronhill).
- MUIR.—At 13 Middlefield Drive on 16th August, William Muir, aged 90 years.
- WEIR.—At Ayr on 19th August, Marion Crosbie, aged 80 years.
- WILSON.—At 6 Garronhill on 17th August, Annie Hendry, aged 56 years.
- PEARSON.—At Stonehouse on 28th August, Mary Shields, aged 83 years.
- CALDOW.—At Essex on 2nd September, Flora Caldwell (formerly of The Isle and Main Street).
- McKEAN.—At 25 Midhouse Row on 25th September, Annie McKean, aged 5 months.
- RICHMOND.—At Greenock Mains on 4th October, Jessie Muir.
- MORAN.—At Killearn on 12th October, Terence Moran, aged 28 years (of 53 New Terrace).
- FERGUSON.—At Portobello on 14th October, William Ferguson, retired Colliery Manager, aged 78 years.
- WARD.—At 14 Main Street on 30th October, Elizabeth Paton, aged 70 years.
- STITT.—At Ballochmyle on 12th November, Jane Brown, aged 63 years.

CHAPTER FORTY

(1947)

GLENBUCK SCHOOL

The school celebrated its seventieth birthday recently, and the following is a short history from a Parish Book, compiled by the pupils last year.

The passing of the Education Act of 1872 brought into being the Parish School Board, upon whom devolved the duty of providing schools in every parish throughout the land.

The original school, of which no records remain, was carried on in a large "single end" in the now defunct School Row. While the present structure was in the course of erection, the school was held in the byre at West Glenbuck, but the cold weather of the 1875-76 winter made it impossible to carry on this temporary arrangement, and for several months no schooling was available in the village.

Glenbuck School opened on Monday, 13th March, 1876, when 106 children were admitted, and after a short address they were dismissed for a week "to allow the painters to varnish the desks, etc." The first—and sole—teacher was Mr W. S. Baikie, and his roll in the early days showed remarkable fluctuations. It is interesting to note that slumps in attendance coincided with visits by the School Board Treasurer each quarter for the purpose of collecting fees.

In 1877 the School Board Clerk had to advise the teacher "to be careful in firing the stove so as not to destroy it by overheating."

Next year the introduction of a new text book had an adverse effect upon the roll, as many parents could not afford to purchase it, and simply withdrew their children from the school.

As the roll mounted to over 140 pupils the staff was increased to two teachers, assisted by two monitors, aged 12¾ years.

Non-payment of fees called for periodic visits by the head-teacher to Cumnock J.P. Court, and on December 5, 1878, one of the villagers was fined five shillings or sentenced to five days in prison. There is a note recording that "he did not pay the fine, so was sent to prison."

Two years later, in 1880, the roll had risen to 180 pupils, and the following year tragedy came to the School when two boys were drowned in Glenbuck Loch while sliding on the ice.

Structural defects became obvious in 1881, when "snow that had blown in under the slates began to melt and came through the ceiling, causing some inconvenience." The School Board decided to enlarge the building, and work was begun in June, after the summer holidays had been re-arranged to suit the builders.

By 1882 the attendance had soared to 220, and the staff now consisted of two teachers and three pupil teachers.

Next Year, 1883, saw the closing of the Lady Pit and the School roll fell quickly to 140. The opening of a new pit in 1884 sent the figures up to 160 and in 1885 to 190 pupils, still under two teachers assisted by two pupil teachers.

On 5th January, 1886, as the result of the Board's decision to increase the staff, Mr John Rodger was appointed first assistant. Attendances now average over 200 under a head-master, an assistant, and an infant mistress.

Mr Baikie resigned in October, 1888, and was succeeded by Mr Allen from Stewarton. After a fortnight's work in School, Mr Allen was removed home critically ill, and he

died in March, 1889. Mr Rodger was appointed as his successor on 11th March, 1889.

By now the roll was about 280, still under the tuition of three teachers and one pupil teacher. There was a serious epidemic of fever, and with a third of the children off school, the Board closed the premises for a period of three weeks.

18th November, 1892, was a momentous day for the little village when Glenbuck Water Scheme was opened. Unfortunately, during dry spells the villagers occasionally found that no water flowed through their new pumps. The inauguration of the service caused the School Board to grant a holiday for the great occasion.

In 1894 new dual desks were installed in school and some of these are to-day serving the grandchildren of those boys and girls who hanelled them that April morning, 52 years ago. The miners' strike of that year had severe educational repercussions, as many of the parents were unable to buy the necessary books for their children.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century the roll mounted steadily to almost 300 pupils and, on the recommendation of H.M. Inspector, the building was divided by sliding partitions, in 1899, into five classrooms, and the staff increased to five teachers, one pupil teacher, and one monitor.

The long drawn-out strike of 1902 saw the families leave the district, but work on the new railway to Coalburn brought fresh families to the village. By 1905 the school staff was increased to six teachers with one first year pupil teacher.

The closing of the Galawhistle and Davie Pits started another exodus, the school roll dropping by over sixty pupils in six weeks and the staff was reduced to four teachers once more.

In September, 1920, the school was closed for the induction of Rev. John Henderson in the Parish Church at Muirkirk. During the period of the First World War the roll fell slowly but steadily.

In February, 1918, the school closed for a half-holiday to enable the pupils and staff to attend the funeral of Mr Howatson, chairman of the School Board. In October influenza was rife, and it was necessary to close the school for four weeks. The re-opening date was 11th November, but, when the news of the Armistice was known, a holiday was immediately declared.

The 1921 miners' strike had an adverse effect upon school attendances, and "no boots" and "no clothes" were everyday reasons for absence.

Flush lavatories were installed in October, 1921, and the following year the Galawhistle and Davie Pits, which had been re-opened during the war, once again closed down. More families moved elsewhere in search of employment.

The 1926 miners' strike did not affect the children to the same degree as previous strikes, for arrangements for communal feeding were speedily and successfully put into operation.

Next year, 1927, saw the retirement of Mr John Rodger, Glenbuck's "Grand Old Man," after 38½ years of service as Head-master of the village school. He was succeeded by Mr James D. Kirkwood, who was to hold the reins of office until his early and untimely death in February, 1943.

Decay was now evident in the local coalfield and many families left the area in 1829 to seek employment elsewhere.

The closing of Grasshill Pit in 1933 seemed the beginning of the end and more migration took place.

The population decline, proceeding at an accelerating pace since 1933 was partially arrested by the outbreak of war in 1939, when the school roll had fallen to 42 children. By Feb-

ruary, 1943, the number of children on the roll had declined still further to 36 pupils.

To-day, the roll stands at 33, but it is interesting to note that this is "rock bottom," since the war children are beginning to make their appearance in school, and yearly admissions of 10 are replacing former yearly admissions of 5 or 6 pupils.

This brief history of the school for the past seventy years provides a mirror in which we may view the events of the village during the period.

To-day, the villagers, learning of the plans by the experts, are uneasy as to the future, and the Glenbuck native may be pardoned for quoting the National Bard—

"An forward, tho' I canna' see,
I guess an' fear."

[The above was written a few months ago, and the closing paragraphs should be read accordingly]

VITAL STATISTICS

Births—52. As against 66 the previous year.

Marriages—30. The previous year it was 36.

Deaths—32. As against 39 previously.

The only feature of this fairly normal year was that all the deaths registered since October last were persons over 60 years of age.

OBITUARY

It was with regret that we learned of the death of Mr Richard Wilson, newsagent and tobacconist (34 Main Street). He had been ailing for some time, but was able to carry on till Saturday last, when he was overcome by illness, and he passed away on 4th March. "Dickie" was a familiar figure in the district, and in addition to his business activities, he and his fiddle brought pleasure to many of us at concerts and on social occasions. He was a member of the local orchestras when these functioned a number of years ago, and also led his own dance band for some years.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES UNVEILED

At the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial Gates at Victory Park on Sunday, 9th November, the unveiling and dedication of the two panels in memory of the one woman and twenty-four men who had made the supreme sacrifice, took place. Mr John H. Preston performed the unveiling, and the plaques were dedicated by Rev. T. Donaldson Barr. The names inscribed are as follows:—

- Nurse JESSIE HUNTER
- L/Sgt. THOMAS BLANE, Black Watch.
- Fus. GEORGE CHAPMAN, R.S.F.
- JAMES DODDS, M.N.
- Trooper JOHN ENGLAND, Res. Regt.
- L/Cpl. GEORGE FERGUSON, R.E.
- Pte. JAMES FERGUSON, Black Watch
- Lt. DAVID FORRESTER, Scot. Rifles.
- F/O WILLIAM GIRDWOOD, R.A.F.
- L.A.C. WILLIAM HAMILTON, R.A.F.
- JOHN HOGG, M.N.
- L/Cpl. ROBERT JACK, P.C.
- Cpl. JAMES LOGGIE, Royal Scots.
- F/O. THOMAS McCALL, R.A.F.
- P/O. JAMES McCARTNEY, R.A.F.
- L/Cpl. JOHN McCORRIE, R.S.F.
- Cpl. GEORGE McDADE, R.S.F.
- Pte. WILLIAM McLAY, Black Watch.
- Sgt. ANDREW McSKIMMING, R.A.F.
- L/Cpl. JAMES MILLAR, Cam. High.
- Sgt. ANDREW STEPHEN, R.A.F.
- Pte. WILLIAM TEMPLETON, R.A.O.C.
- C.P./O. HENRY WARDROP, R.N.
- P/O. WILLIAM WARDROP, R.A.F.
- L.A.C. FRED WILSON, R.A.F.

CO-OPERATIVE RINK CHAMPIONS



The Muirkirk Rink which won the Bowling Championship at Alloa in 1946. Mr James G. Beresford (Skip) is being congratulated by the S.C.W.S President, and reading from the left are the other members of the rink—Norman McKenzie, Hugh Love, and Thomas Fulton

FITTING MEMORIAL

The memorial stone to the memory of the late Rev. John Henderson, B.D., has been erected at Muirkirk cemetery. It is of light-grey granite, in the form of a rectangular stone mounted on a substantial base, and surmounted by a cross. It bears the inscription:—"Erected by parishioners and friends to the memory of Rev. John Henderson, B.D., the beloved husband of Ina Campbell, and for 36 years Minister of this Parish. Born 28th December, 1873. Died 26th January, 1946." The plaque for the Church is also ready and will be installed in due course.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Mr Harry Caldwell, our veteran comedian (George Arnott of the variety stage in professional days), has just received an autographed photograph and a letter from the famous comedians, Laurel & Hardy, who are visiting this country from America, thanking him for a little comedy skit he sent them, and which they are now using in their programme. 39 years ago Stan, as a boy comedian, appeared at the Panopticon, Glasgow, on the same bill as George Arnott. Harry was very well pleased with the letter, and his pleasure was further increased to feel the crinkle of a one pound note enclosed.

THE LATE MR DUGALD BAIRD

Muirkirk lost a good friend last week (October) by the passing of Mr Dugald Baird at the ripe old age of 87 years. For 17 years Mr Baird made his home amongst us as Manager of Messrs William Baird & Co., and later Messrs Baird & Dalmellington, and he made many friends. He took a keen interest in Muirkirk and its inhabitants. His great and practical interest in local archaeology will be remembered by all who roam our moors and gaze upon our cairns and monuments, for it was he who was responsible for the renovation of our Covenanters' stones and the erection of the cairn to McAdam and the monument to Tibbie Pagan. About 25 years ago Mr Baird gave a lecture to the Burns Literary Society on the history of Muirkirk Iron Company, 1787-1863, which was also published in the "Advertiser" at that time.

THE LATE MR JAMES DONAGHY

Yet another link with Muirkirk past was broken with the death, in New Jersey, U.S.A., on 5th December, of Mr James Donaghy. Of Irish extraction (his father owning a small portion of the Emerald Isle, which his son eventually heired), Jamie reached Muirkirk via Auchinleck to take up the position of shoemaker with the Muirkirk Co-operative Society.

During the European War he was roped into the Services, and during his time abroad received a bad wound in the leg, with which he was really delighted (like many others he did not take kindly to soldering), for while in hospital it was ascertained that he could play the violin with the result that he was appointed a member of the orchestra in the officers' mess, a position he held till the close of the hostilities.

He then returned to Muirkirk and set up a business for his own behoof, and for various periods occupied different premises and enjoyed a good patronage. However, America kept on insistently calling, and in the end he was a rather unwilling immigrant with his wife and family. When the subject of this little sketch left Muirkirk it was simply to be au revoir; he never meant it to be good-bye.

In New Jersey he did well enough, and although he had big money he confessed it was all needed, and occasionally his services and those of his daughter were called for as entertainers.

It may be truly said that while he resided in America his

heart was in Muirkirk, as is that of many incomers, strange to say, and he yearned for news of the village.

While in Muirkirk he took an active part in the social life of the village. He was the reigning champion clog dancer of Ayrshire, and along with the late Willie Kennedy, conducted dancing classes in the Ironworks Institute, while he and Jamie Lacey teamed up in a double act in clog dancing under the title of Donaghy & Lacey, the Bhoys from Donegal, although it was confessed that neither had ever seen that green spot.

In connection with clog dancing, Mr Durham Bertram, Glenbuck, also a clog wallper of some note, had eyes on the Ayrshire Championship and challenged Jamie, even arranged a meeting at Ponesk Bridge with the followers of each to settle rendezvous and terms, but Jamie did not rise to the bait. Strange that Durrie should also emigrate to America, where he conducted dancing classes under the name of Professor Bertram.

A member of the Muirkirk Orchestra, Donaghy also dabbled in rhyme, and his efforts frequently appeared in the "Muirkirk Advertiser." He greatly appreciated a call from the late Mr Charles Howatson of Glenbuck to compliment him on his poem—"Tae My Auld Fiddle." With a good command of the English and the Doric, his effusions, grave and gay, were of considerable merit, so much so that his work was occasionally plagiarised.

He leaves a widow, a daughter (Rose), and two sons, the elder of whom was in the American Forces during the last war and made a flying visit to Muirkirk. Jamie made many friends in Muirkirk; he was a fine fellow.

FOOTBALL (Season 1946-47)

No honours for Muirkirk Juniors this season, but some great games to whet the appetite of the Ladeside Park supporters. It was a fairly quite start to the season. Muirkirk entertained Auchinleck Talbot in the opening game, which ended in a 1-1 draw. The Muirkirk team was:—Telfer; Davidson, Owens; Thomson, Neil, Steele; Kelly, Brown, McGill, Highet, Cree.

Mr Alex. Brown was elected secretary of the Club in place of Mr Murdoch.

Former Muirkirk favourite, Alex. Linwood was transferred from St. Mirren to Middlesbrough.

In the Scottish Cup Muirkirk drew 1-1 away to Ayr Newton Rovers, and won the replay comfortably by 4-1. In the second round they had a very meritorious 2-2 draw with the strong-going Shettleston Juniors at Glasgow, and seemingly against all odds thrashed them 4-0 in the replay at Ladeside Park. The team was:—Hill; Neil, Davidson; Thomson, Gardiner, Highet; Sproat, McGowan, Johnstone, Morrow, McIntosh. A bye in the 3rd round saw them come out of the hat against Irvine Meadow in the 4th round. This was a Ne'erday game, and Muirkirk took 500 supporters to Meadow Park to help swell the crowd to 5,500. The Juniors did not play to their best form and lost by 4-1.

In the West of Scotland Cup Muirkirk were drawn away to Petershill, and in front of a 3,200 crowd shocked the home team with a fine display to earn a 4-4 draw. A packed Ladeside Park saw Muirkirk held to a 2-2 draw, thus setting up a third game at Rugby Park, Kilmarnock. Some 6,000 spectators turned up to see an exciting clash, and some very clever football. The score stood 3-3 after ninety minutes, but Petershill finished the stronger team to win 6-4 in extra time. Team:—Hill; Highet, Owens; Thomson, gardiner, Kinnaird; Kerr, McGowan, Johnstone, Steele, McIntosh.

That year the stand at Ladeside Park was completed, and thus Muirkirk had a very neat wee stadium, the envy of most clubs in Ayrshire, but more important, they had the makings of a useful team.

THE WINTER OF 1947

Muirkirk has suffered many bad winters and severe snowstorms, but not one as sustained as that experienced this year, and I cull the following from the relevant files—

9th January Issue

After a quiet start to the New Year, the Weather Clerk himself became a bit boisterous on New Year's Night, and brought his liquid with him in the form of heavy rain. On Monday morning he changed over to heavy snow, with the result that the Western S.M.T. 'buses were unable to reach Muirkirk, and, indeed, the service has not been resumed at time of writing. The children have welcomed the wintry spell, and tobogganing is fashionable. We have had rain and frost since.

16th January Issue

We had our share of the storm last week, but, apart from the suspension of one of our 'bus services for three days, we did not fare so badly as some districts. The road block on the Cumnock route was near Cronberry, and we are inclined to think that if it had been in the Muirkirk district it would have been opened up earlier.

30th January Issue

Back to wintry conditions again! The roads are ice-bound, but we have not had the heavy snowfall reported from various parts of the country. And we don't want it either.

6th February

The wintry conditions continue, and while they are unpleasant enough, reports and pictures show that we have been fairly fortunate so far in escaping the full force of the storm. Traffic in the district has been able to carry on, and although there have been some burst pipes with the frost, tradesmen report that there has been no really serious trouble. The weans are happy, too.

13th February Issue

Arctic conditions are still with us, and, although the roads are bad, the traffic has struggled along pretty well. There have been several hitches, but nothing like what some parts are experiencing. The football team's 'bus got stuck in the snow on Saturday and caused a cancellation of their game at Hurlford, while another 'bus conveying a Muirkirk party to Glasgow for a theatre night got stuck later in the evening on the outskirts of Muirkirk and the trip had to be abandoned. Sledging continues to be the chief interest of the children, and we noticed a really well-made snowman the other day.

20th February Issue

On Monday a heavy lorry left the snow-and-ice-bound roadway on the Cumnock road near the Upper Wellwood roadend, and crashed into the wood. The driver—the only occupant of the lorry—had a very lucky escape from injury.

6th March Issue

On top of our bad-enough wintry conditions, the snowstorm on Tuesday night-Wednesday morning caused temporary blocks on most of our roads. A thaw is forecast for the weekend, and are we hoping for one? There were 24 degrees of frost at Muirkirk on Monday morning.

13th March Issue

Just when we thought that the worst of the winter was past, along came a blizzard last night, with the result that we found ourselves isolated till this morning. At time of writing all roads are blocked, and, while a train has now managed through to Auchinleck, there will be no railway services till the afternoon. Railway services with England are suspended at the moment, the main line being blocked at New Cumnock. It is hoped to run trains this afternoon on the Auchinleck and Lanark routes, but the Ayr route, we understand, is not likely

to be opened to-day. Mails, too, have been held up, but it is expected that there will be a delivery this afternoon. Meantime, snow ploughs and shovels are in action. The Old Parish Church Choir had a theatre outing last night, and so far have been unable to reach home. We hear they spent the night in Kilmarnock.

20th March Issue

The snowstorm on Wednesday night-Thursday morning of last week was easily the worst of the winter. The village was completely isolated for a time, and a number of returning travellers had perforce to spend the night elsewhere. 'Bus services were suspended for several days, and, although the railway lines were cleared, another snow-up on Saturday night caused evening trains to be held up till Sunday. The Ayr-Muirkirk train was held up at Cumnock and proceeded back to Ayr on Sunday morning, but was able to bring the stranded passengers home via Auchinleck on Sunday afternoon, and it was also Sunday before the train from Lanark got through. It was a poor introduction to Summer Time. Most larders were pretty bare, and, indeed, it was described as Muirkirk's hungriest week-end. Even the humble potato was missing from the menu. Miners employed at Carmacoup were unable to get to their work, but one pleasing feature was that Kames Colliery was one of the two Ayrshire pits able to keep going. We hear that many sheep are missing on the farms—a serious loss in these times. A wedding reception scheduled for Saturday night was postponed till Tuesday. Huge drifts made the roads impassable for vehicles, although the snowplough was on constant duty, but at least two farmers solved the difficulty of getting in to the village for provisions by accomplishing the journey cowboy fashion on horseback.

On the night of the blizzard search parties were called out to look for a lad who had set out to walk to Cronberry (an account of his ordeal is given elsewhere), and on Saturday the local Doctors fought their way on foot to a district farm to attend a patient, who, we hear, is now progressing favourably. All over, it was a very trying time, and, we hope, will prove to be winter's dying spasm. A thaw set in on Sunday, and while there has been some snow since, conditions are much better, and traffic has resumed its normal routine.

A SEARCH IN THE SNOWSTORM

This is a tale of the great snowstorm, the story of a foolhardy boy and the courage that his foolishness inspired. The boy's age is fourteen and his leg is encased in plaster of paris, for he is recovering from a fractured leg. His home is in Hurlford, and he is at present visiting his married sister at Cronberry. On Wednesday of last week he went with his brother-in-law to visit relatives in Muirkirk, and when the roads became snowbound the travellers had to stay overnight in Muirkirk. The bother-in-law set out on Thursday to walk back to Cronberry, leaving the young lad with his relatives, to be sent on when rail or road travel became possible.

The boy set out on Thursday evening to visit the Cinema, but instead of going there, he set forth to walk to Cronberry. His failure to return from the Cinema caused inquiries to be made, and it was established that he had been seen passing the Central S.M.T. Garage. Telephone calls to Cronberry elicited the information that he had failed to arrive.

At the Muirkirk end, the highways staff turned out with the snowplough, but, despite all their efforts, they could not get through beyond Wellwood and were forced to return. Sgt. McLeod and Constable Waugh of Muirkirk Police continued the journey on foot and contacted the Cronberry search party in the region of the Skew Bridge, every farm and house on the seven-mile stretch having been aroused in vain. The combined party then made for Cronberry, which was reached at 5 a.m. without any trace having been seen of the missing lad. There the police officers waited for half an hour till day-light broke

and again set their faces to the Muirkirk road. At the site of the proposed railway siding east of Boghead Farm, the wanderer was located in the hut of a watchman on Messrs Carmichael's ground.

Having found him, the police made their way home and reported his location by telephone to Cronberry, and he was eventually got to Cronberry late that afternoon along the railway line, which was much easier to travel than the road.

Those who were out in the blizzard and those who saw the terrible condition of the road, where every drift had to be gone through and none by-passed in case it held the missing boy, can appreciate the courage and endurance of the two search parties, who literally risked their own lives to save a boy from the consequence of his own foolishness.

27th March Issue

Signs of Spring—lambs are making their appearance once again, indeed several were born in the district during the severe weather, and we hear, are thriving well.

SEEN AND HEARD

At the New Year the flag was unfurled at Kames Colliery to mark the Nationalisation of the coal mining industry. Mr Gavin Lang was the Manager at that time.

Rev. Charles W. Horn, Lerwick, was ordained Missionary at Glenbuck Church in place of Rev. David Baird, now at Lochgilphead.

Mr and Mrs John Shields celebrated their golden wedding in February.

William Wilson, 87 Main Street, commenced business as a Chimney Sweep and Window Cleaner.

Mr R. K. Wilson was elected to the Presidency of Muirkirk Co-operative Society in place of Mr Thomas Morrison, who had resigned after 43 years service to the Society, 21 of those as President.

The newsagents business formerly carried on at 34 Main Street by the late Mr Richard Wilson has been taken over by his aunt, Mrs Janet Murray.

George Park and George Bradford were making a name for themselves in Cadet football. Cadet Park was chosen to represent Britain in an international match in London.

Mr Joseph Davidson, fitter at Muirkirk Gas Works, was promoted to Manager at Callander Gas Company.

Muirkirk schoolboy John McDade was capped to play for Scotland against England, and helped Scotland to a 1-1 draw. John was chosen again to play against Wales.

Elizabeth Little and Robert Keddie shared the Dux at Muirkirk H.G. School.

William Bell was the Sports Champion, with Donald Borthwick runner-up.

Miss Margaret Lang, 5 Park Terrace, was chosen as Muirkirk's representative in the National Coal Queen competition.

In July Mr W. H. Balfour, Holmhead, Muirkirk, closed his Dairy Business.

Mr Ned Russell landed a monster trout, 22 inches long, and weighing over four pounds.

Mr Andrew Jeffrey opened a fruit shop at Furnace Road in August.

CO-OPERATIVE DIVIDEND:

2/6 per £ plus 10d bonus—

3/4 per £

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1947

BIRTHS

VALLANCE.—At Stableyard on 28th February to Mr and Mrs George Vallance; a son.

McCOLL.—At Edinburgh on 30th March to Mr and Mrs John McColl (Jessie Crosbie); a daughter.

DAVIDSON.—At Glasgow on 18th April to Mr and Mrs R. Davidson (Maisie Hastie); a daughter.

TROTTER.—At Irvine on 4th May to Mr and Mrs John Trotter (Violet Wilson); a daughter.

JOHNSTONE.—At 45 Glasgow Road on 8th May to Mr and Mrs James Johnstone (Jeanie Bain); a son.

POOLE.—In Canada on 25th June to Mr and Mrs L. Poole (Annie Johnstone); a son.

HINDSHAW.—At Masons Arms Hotel on 22nd July to Mr and Mrs A. Hindshaw; a daughter.

REID.—At Irvine on 25th July to Mr and Mrs C. Reid; a daughter.

GRANT.—At Ayr on 23rd August to Mr and Mrs T. Grant (Sarah Findlay); a son.

BULL.—In New Zealand on 4th September to Mr and Mrs Ronald Bull (Mary Moran); a daughter.

BARRIE.—At Stockport on 16th September to Mr and Mrs William Barrie (Kathleen Betany); a son.

SEY.—At London on 24th September to Mr and Mrs H. Sey (Nettie Muncie); a daughter.

MOCHRIE.—At 150 Main Street on 9th October to Mr and Mrs William Mochrie (Annie Johnstone); a son.

GAVIN.—At 54 Springhill Terrace on 24th November to Mr and Mrs J. Gavin (Mary Marshall); a son.

ORMISTON.—At Edinburgh on 7th December to Mr and Mrs Douglas Ormiston (Betty Samson); a son.

MARTIN.—On 12th December to Mr and Mrs William Martin (Mary Addison); a daughter.

WEIR.—At Pitlochry on 25th December to Mr and Mrs Walter Weir (Helen Forrest); a daughter.

EATON.—In Canada on 19th December to Mr and Mrs Douglas Eaton (Peggy Barrie); a son.

MARRIAGES

ALEX. McNAIR to MARY WALLACE on 27th December, 1946.

JOHN STIRLING to ELIZABETH DAVIDSON on 1st February.

IAN MACDOUGALL to MARGARET GUTHRIE on 8th February.

HUGH DUNLOP to JEAN MURPHY on 26th February.

ROBERT DEMPSTER to JANET McCALL on 19th March.

MATTHEW LOCHHEAD to ANNE MATHIESON on 22nd March.

ALEXANDER GILLESPIE to MARY DEMPSTER on 19th April.

HENRY JOYCE to ELIZABETH WELSH on 26th April.

HERBERT ROBSON to CHARLOTTE McCARTNEY on 3rd June.

ARTHUR SPAWFORTH to MARY PATERSON on 7th June.

SYDNEY BROWELL to ISABELLA JACK on 20th June.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS to MARY ANDERSON on 7th June.

PATRICK O'DONNELL to THERESA BOLAND on 4th July.

JOHN DODDS to ANNIE RANKIN on 11th July.

JAMES FINDLAY to MARTHA McDADE on 5th July.

GEORGE BROWN to MARY McCRORIE on 21st July.

WILLIAM HORSEMAN to RAE SAMSON on 18th July.

ARTHUR BARR to DOROTHY GRINDLE on 1st August.

WILLIAM CALDOW to MARGARET GILCHRIST on 1st August.

MARRIAGES (continued)

WILLIAM McCORMICK to AGNES LENNOX on 8th August.
 JOHN HARRISON to ELIZ. LIVINGSTONE on 23rd August.
 JAMES HILL to IRIS JAMES on 16th August.
 JOHN COWAN to MARION DODDS on 26th September.
 JAMES DOUGLAS to MARION DAVIDSON on 27th September.
 FRED. RICHER to MARGARET STEELE on 23rd September.
 JAMES ARCHIBALD to MARG. MARSHALL on 18th October.
 HUGH McHARG to ELIZABETH HODGE on 17th October.
 ANDREW PICKFORD to JESSIE PARKER on 7th November.
 WILLIAM CULLEY to JANET BROWN on 3rd December
 PETER WALLACE to RUBY ALLAN on 13th December..
 JAMES CLARK to MARGARET POLLAND on 27th December.

DEATHS

BROWN.—At Cairn House on 20th December, 1946, Alexander Brown, aged 72 years.
 GUTHRIE.—At Norwood, Wellwood Street, on 26th December, 1946, Helen Wardrop, aged 86 years.
 MENZIES.—At 2 Ols Terrace on 23rd December, 1946, Alex. Menzies, aged 72 years.
 STACEY.—At Ballochmyle on 30th December, wee Margaret, aged 8 years (of Iroindale House).
 McSKIMMING.—At 9 Wellwood Street on 2nd January, Elizabeth Caldwell, aged 65 years.
 GOURLAY.—At 10 Bridge Street on 12th January, Janet Cannon, aged 83 years.
 COLLOW.—At Stobhill on 20th January, John Telford, aged 60.
 FERROL.—At Ballochmyle on 27th January, Robert Ferrol, aged 38 years
 CUMMING.—At 2 Ironworks Cottages on 6th February, Ann Love.
 HENDERSON.—At Glasgow on 8th February, John Henderson, aged 78 years.
 MACKERROLL.—At Ayr on 22nd February, Agnes Arthur, aged 69 years (late of 16 Garronhill).
 CALDOW.—At Manchester on 28th January, James Caldwell, aged 46 years.
 COWAN.—At 1 Old Terrace on 27th February, Isabella Hastings, aged 70 years.
 FLANAGAN.—At 39 Garronhill on 4th March, James Flanagan.
 WILSON.—At Victoria Buildings on 4th March, Richard Wilson, aged 50 years.
 SAMSON.—At 4 Kames Row on 15th March, Elizabeth Welsh.
 WEIR.—At 1 Grasshill Row, Glenbuck, on 12th March, Thomas Weir, aged 77 years.
 HILL.—At 38 Springhill Terrace on 17th March, James Hill, aged 66 years.
 SMITH.—In Australia, Adam Smith, late of Glenbuck.
 MURRAY.—At 77 Main Street on 2nd April, Thomas Murray, aged 48 years.
 WALKER.—At 145 Main Street on 27th March, William Walker, aged 57 years.
 STEELE.—At Kilmarnock on 4th April, James Steele, aged 67 years (Late of Main Street).
 McKENZIE.—At 51 New Terrace on 21st April, John McKenzie, aged 65 years.
 HALLIDAY.—At 31 Main Street on 29th April, William Halliday.
 McCALL.—At Kilmarnock on 28th April, John McCall, aged 76 years (late of Springhill Terrace).
 McDONALD.—At Dalmellington on 27th April, Thomas McDonald, aged 54 years.
 ANDREW.—At Morton Place on 7th May, Jeanie Lang, aged 75 years.
 THOMSON.—At 15 Furnace Road on 8th May, Agnes Richmond, aged 76 years.
 SAMSON.—At Kames Colliery on 12th May, Hugh Samson, aged 49 years (of 34 Springhill Terrace).
 MARSHALL.—At Bothwell on 19th May, Grace Brown.
 WOODBURN.—At 7 Midhouse Row on 3rd June, Margaret Woodburn.
 HERON.—At 27 Springhill Terrace on 4th June, Catherine Black, aged 70 years.
 MURRAY.—At 104 Main Street on 6th June, Sarah Johnstone, aged 67 years.
 WARD.—At 127 Main Street on 7th June, Robert Ward, aged 74 years.
 McINTYRE.—At Kirkconnel on 18th June, Barbara Bertram (late of Garronhill).
 SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 21st June, David Samson, aged 81 years (of 150 Main Street).
 FERGUSON.—At 41 Garronhill on 28th June, Allison Ferguson.
 KELLOCK.—At Glasgow on 5th July, John Kellock.
 GRAHAM.—At Ballochmyle on 10th July, Peter Graham, aged 67 years.
 FALCONER.—At 4 Wellwood Crescent on 20th July, Joseph Falconer.
 DEMPSTER.—At Ayr on 4th August, Margaret Semple.
 LOGGIE.—At Garronhill House on 5th August, Agnes Fulton, aged 73 years.
 FERGUSON.—At Jedburgh on 14th September, John Ferguson.
 LOGGIE.—At 14 Garronhill on 13th September, Isabella Lundie, aged 77 years.
 ROSS.—At Douglas Place on 14th September, Margaret Barclay, aged 85 years.
 BAIRD.—At Prestwick on 21st September, Dugald Baird, aged 88 years.
 LINDSAY.—At Ballochmyle on 20th September, Allan Lindsay, aged 81 years (of Greenockmains).
 McCRAE.—At Glasgow on 30th September, Mary Croft (late of Heathfield, Muirkirk).
 WEIR.—At Glasgow on 28th September, Hugh Weir (late of Glenbuck).
 FINDLAY.—At 40 Main Street on 12th October, Jeanie Blackwood, aged 86 years.
 CLARK.—In U.S.A. on 14th October, Thomas Clark, aged 76 years.
 DAVIDSON.—At Glasgow on 22nd October, Rayonne Davidson, aged 6 months.
 KELLY.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd November, James Keelly, aged 49 years (of 23 Kames Row).
 BRADFORD.—At 25 Park Terrace on 5th November, Thomas Bradford, aged 71 years.
 ADAMSON.—At Newton Stewart on 21st November, Amelia Simpson.
 DONAGHY.—In U.S.A. on 5th December, James Donaghy (late of Muirkirk).
 McCANN.—At 9 Middlefield Drive on 6th December, James McCann, aged 44 years.
 BAIRD.—At Prestwick on 20th December, Harold Baird.
 HYSLOP.—At Killearn on 28th December, James Hyslop.

CHAPTER FORTY-ONE

(1948)

BUGHOUSE BOYS HAVE A BASH!

"The Bughouse" is probably misleading. It was the nickname, appropriately, of an old building behind the "Heid Inns" where quoits were stored and the sporting enthusiasts of other days foregathered. "The Bughouse" has long since gone, but the name has stuck, and although the Masons Arms Quoiting Club boasts a comfortable Clubhouse nowadays, the members are still referred to as the Bughouse Boys. The Boys are varied in age, shape, size, temperament, and sporting taste, and here you will find experts whose talents range from the clay to the turf, from darts to dogs, from cards to candid criticism.

And so it all started with the road race from Muirkirk to Douglas. Said the wise men—"Ach, we can dae as guid as that;" some generous folk put up the prizes, and on Sunday morning a baker's dozen faced the starter to cycle to the Miners' Canteen at Glespin and back to the starting point at Rowe's Garage. The machines—beggd and borrowed—were a heterogeneous collection, and the riders were well assorted too. A goodly crowd assembled to see the fun, and the riders were sent off at one minute intervals.

First man home was "Hoppy" Barrie, who astounded the critics and the time-keeper with a record-breaking run. It transpired that "Hoppy" had fallen off his bike at Glenbuck Dam, and was picked up by a passing motorist. Laugh No. 1.

The winner proved to be Andrew Walker, who covered the roughly-14-miles course in 46 minutes; Jock McNally was a good second favourite in 48 minutes, and Henry Casagrande came in with a good run to pip some of the classic candidates in 49 minutes. The older stables shone in the Handicap Section. "Jaggy" Mitchell finished all smiles and first in 41 minutes (handicap deducted), with Tammy Casagrande second, and Geordie Hill third. At the other end was "Barney" Brown, who had an "awfu' poor bike." He took 59 minutes.

The speedsters got a great reception at the presentation of the prizes, and Miss Betty Gray did the needful in handing over the awards. "Jaggy" was rewarded with a hearty kiss which was the envy of all the others and which made this hero blush, and no wonder, for he had also won the special prize for the best-looking cyclist. John responded in typical sporting fashion by handing over his spoils (15/- and a razor) for the benefit of the Old Folks' Reunion). All the other competitors got prizes and everybody was happy and amused.

Next big event—prior to the Olympic Games—is a marathon foot race from the Clubhouse to the top of Cairntable and back. Some of the dark horses are already in training, and when our sporting scribe interviewed a well-known candidate, between pechs, as to his chances against the others he said—"It doesn't matter what you do so long as you tear 'em up!"

QUOITING

John Kilpatrick still keeps to the fore in the quoiting world. In the international quoits match verse Wales at Llanhilleth on Saturday John was one of the Scottish team of eight players who beat Wales by 14 shots. Four players on each side won their games, but Muirkirk's John Kilpatrick had the biggest victory of the day, beating James, the Welsh Captain, by 21 to 8.

In October John won the Scottish single-hand championship for the twelfth time—a real champion if ever there was one.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1947

Births 64—As against 52 the previous year.

Marriages 46—There were 32 last year.

Deaths 43—As against 32 in 1946.

'BUS PROBLEM

All 'buses running to the Southside may in future be turned on the village side of the Railway Tunnel—instead of the single-deckers turning at the end of Old Terrace as at present—as the result of a double-decker 'bus being inadvertently driven into the tunnel last week. With the drivers sometimes on a single-decker and sometimes a double-decker, this could happen easily, and the 'bus company will no doubt keep on the safe side. We are told that it is only at one end of the tunnel that the height is low enough to stop a double-decker. The double-decker in question was got back out by letting the tyres down, and escaped with a scraping of the roof.

DROWNING TRAGEDY

Barbara De Sykes, 23-month-old daughter of Mr and Mrs William de Sykes, 66 Smallburn Muirkirk, was drowned in a tub of water about mid-day on 9th March. Her mother had left the child playing at the front door for a few minutes, and on going to get her discovered Barbara in the washhouse with her head immersed in a tub of water and her feet still on the floor. Artificial respiration was at once applied, but life was found to be extinct.

ROYAL PARCEL

Mr Harry Caldwell, our veteran comedian—George Arnott of professional days—had an extremely pleasant surprise the other morning, when he was the recipient of quite a substantial parcel. On opening it he found a splendid assortment of foodstuffs and a note, in facsimile handwriting of Princess Elizabeth, asking him to accept the gift, made possible by many kind friends overseas who sent the Princess gifts of food at the time of her wedding. To say that Harry was delighted is to put it mildly, and with characteristic humour he says:—"My only connection with 'royalty' before was appearances at the Queen's Theatre and the Princess Theatre. When I got the parcel you could have knocked me over with a sledge hammer."

NEW INDUSTRY

The old Ironworks Store building was not long in the running for the textile finishing department of Replin Co., contemplated for this district. Instead, the powers that be decided that Glenbuck Public Hall was a better site, and on Tuesday a number of girls were interviewed and started work to-day (24th June). The total workforce at present is thirteen.

THE LATE DAVID CROSBIE

Mr David Crosbie, a well-known personality in the village, passed away at his home at Clutha, Wellwood Street, 26th July. A native of Dalry, Mr Crosbie came to Muirkirk over 20 years ago, and where he successfully carried on business as a licensed grocer at 110 Main Street.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The 3,000th edition of the "Muirkirk Advertiser" was printed on 26th August.

SEEN AND HEARD

Muirkirk's oldest residenter, Granny Ferguson, died at Morton Place on 9th January. She was just one month short of being 96 years of age.

In January the local miners got the first of their food parcels, in the form of ex-army rations.

A new band has made its appearance in Muirkirk—The Modernaires; and another local outfit, Steven's Band, has changed its name to the Accordion Pirates.

Electric light was installed in the prefabs at Smallburn in February.

George Steven, 96 Main Street, commenced business as a window cleaner on 29th March.

Jock McKay's time of 52 mins. 29 secs. in the Douglas road race cycling time trial still stands as the record for the course.

Mr James Paterson announced that he was no longer in partnership with Mr George Brown, in the light engineering workshop at 51 Glasgow Road.

Mr William Ramage, Royal George, announced the closing of his Dairy business in April.

Ayr County Council considered a scheme to convert the now empty Glenbuck House into flatted accommodation, but owing to the high cost of providing services it was agreed not to continue with the scheme.

Work was continuing favourably at the Smallburn Scheme, and in May it was reported 37 temporary houses had been completed and twenty permanent houses were now ready.

Mr Michael Boland commenced business as a Painter and Decorator in May.

Muirkirk's oldest woman residenter, Mrs William Nisbet, died at Sornlea, Main Street, aged 92 years. She was the widow of Mr William Nisbet, one-time mine manager in this district. Mrs Nisbet was born at Shawknowe, a farmhouse which was situated about midway between Bankend and Burnfoot.

In June a start was made with the demolition of Glenbuck House. Built in 1880 the House has been quite a landmark in the district, and its part in one of the finest scenic views in the locality will be missed.

The girls' sports champion at Muirkirk J.S. School was Mary McGillivray. The boys' event was won by William Bell.

The Dux of Muirkirk School was Ann Murray.

The Old Parish Church was closed for re-decoration, and the varnished woodwork was restored to something like its original state and shade. The transformation is indeed remarkable.

The County Council agreed to make demolition orders for a number of house at the Stableyard.

Two blocks of permanent houses at Smallburn were occupied in August.

Miss Annie Gibson, Main Street, celebrated her 86th birthday with a party. Miss Gibson was a partner in the firm of Gibson's the Grocers, which closed down about a year ago. (the shop was situated where now stands the Chemists).

Mrs William Hogg, 37 Glasgow Road, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, was born in her present abode, and has lived all her life there.

In October James Gibson started a Ladies' Hairdressing business.

The electric light was installed at Muirkirk Bowling Club in October.

A footbridge across the railway line at The Crossings has now been erected (October).

In November the Muirkirk electricity supply was switched over to the National Grid. Previously we had been well served with a supply from Kames Colliery.

Dr. T. P. Hutchison, who practised in Muirkirk for a number of years, died in Glasgow.

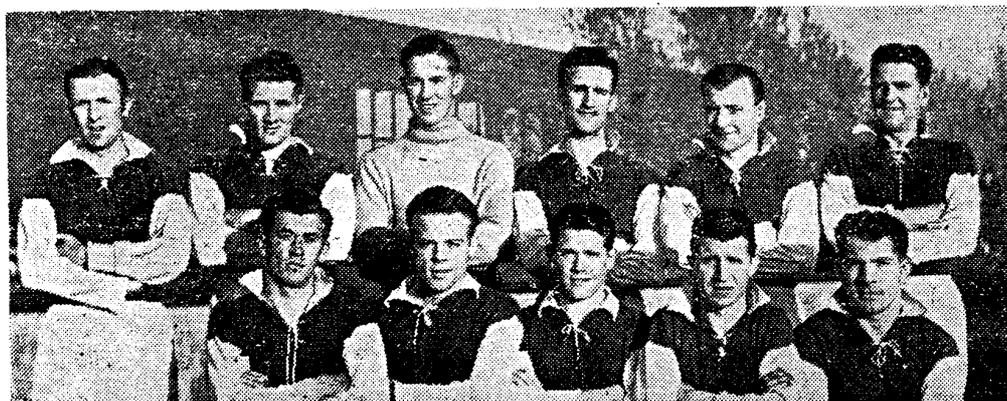
The organ at the Old Parish Church was converted to electricity in November.

Work commenced in December with the erection of a Hall for the E.U. Church at the junction of the Stile with Meuses Lane.

Permission was granted to C. & J. Rowe, Townhead, for the erection of an ice-cream factory.

LOST AT FOOTBALL

We hear of two Muirkirk boys who were at the Muirkirk v. Largs football match at Kilmarnock on Saturday, and who took the wrong train for the return journey. Instead of hearing the customary shouts of welcome from dwellers in Kames Row, they discovered themselves in the fashionable seaside resort of Troon! The lads spent the night at the Miners' Convalescent Home, and were despatched home by 'bus on Sunday, when no doubt a few sighs of relief would be heaved.

Muirkirk Junior Football Team, 1948

BACK ROW (Left to Right)—Kinnaird, Mair, Samson, McMillan, Hightet, Wyllie.
FRONT ROW (Left to Right)—Kerr, Steele, Inglis, McGowan, McIntosh

FOOTBALL (Season 1947-48)

In the late forties the village of Muirkirk was in the grip of football mania. All the talk was about Muirkirk Juniors—seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. So keen were the supporters that the following story speaks for itself. A local Co-operative milkman, on his rounds at Southside about 5.30 one Saturday morning, was going about delivering the milk at Kames Row. It was raining rather heavily, and the milkman got quite a scare when a door opened suddenly and the occupant popped out with the retort—“Dae ye think it will clear up for the gemme?” And that just about sums it all up—Muirkirk really was football daft.

In the new season Muirkirk Juniors got off to a fine start when they visited the latest entrant to the Western League, Craigmark Bruntonians at Dalmellington, and won easily by 7—0. Team—Hill; Young, McMillan; McMurdo, Mair, Hight; Samson, Stillie, Inglis, Steele, McIntosh. In their first home game they beat Lugar Boswell 4—3. It really was an impressive opening, with Jock Inglis scoring 17 goals in seven games.

The scene was set for an assault on the Scottish Cup, and in the first round the Juniors were drawn to Duntocher Hibs, who were at that time playing at Clydebank. Muirkirk went with high hopes, but never produced the form they were capable of and lost 4—1. Team—Syme; Stillie, McMillan; Nolan, Gardiner, Hight; Kerr, McGowan, Mair, Steele, McIntosh. To dumbfound their critics they came out the following week and beat Glenafton 10—2.

Muirkirk's inconsistency against lesser opposition and in cup ties worried the Committee, and as a result the entire team were called to Ladeside Park one Sunday when tactics were discussed and suggestions made to individual players. The result was that the following Saturday Muirkirk travelled to Beechwood Park and beat the strong-going Auchinleck Talbot 5—2.

Then at Ladeside Park, in a Western League Cup game, the mighty and all-conquering Irvine Meadow were the visitors. Muirkirk played well and held the Meadow to a 0—0 draw. The replay at Irvine also ended in a goal-less draw.

In the 3rd round of the West of Scotland Cup the strong-going Petershill visited Ladeside and were held to a 2—2 draw. The Muirkirk team was—Samson; Mair, McMillan; Stillie, Wyllie, Hight; Kerr, Kinnaird, Inglis, Steele, McIntosh. Inglis and Kinnaird scored for Muirkirk. The return match at Petershill was a real cracker, with Muirkirk returning one of the best results ever. Jim Steele and an own goal gave Muirkirk a 2—1 interval lead, but in the second half a tremendous shot from Middlemass brought the scores level. Muirkirk played some attractive football, and a few minutes from time McIntosh sent Inglis through to score a spectacular winning goal. 3—2. Team:—Samson; Mair, McMillan; Kinnaird, Wyllie, Hight; Kerr, Steele, Inglis, McGowan, McIntosh. All this was in vain; in the next round they were trounced 7—0 by Auchinleck Talbot.

There was still more glory for Muirkirk to come when they met Irvine Meadow in the second replay of the Western League Cup in front of a huge crowd at Rugby Park, Kilmarnock. It was a great game to watch, and Muirkirk were highly praised for their footballing skills, and after 90 minutes the score was 3—3. In extra time there was no holding the Juniors, and goals by Kerr and Inglis saw them through to the next round.

The Meadow lost to Boness in the final of the Scottish Cup that year.

Muirkirk beat Annbank 2—1 in the 3rd round of the Western League Cup at Ladeside Park but it was a victory tinged with regret. John McMillan the Juniors' promising right back received a broken leg in the second minute of the game, so it turned out to be a good result for the ten-man Muirkirk side. In

the semi-final they routed Largs Thistle 5—0 at Rugby Park, and so set up a Western League Cup final with Auchinleck Talbot.

And what a game it turned out to be. 5,000 spectators witnessed one of the best ties seen at Townhead Park, Cumnock, for some time. Muirkirk had the better of the exchanges in the first half. Talbot went ahead with an opportunist goal, and Steele got the equaliser via the penalty spot. Then McGowan had the ball in the net for Muirkirk, but the referee disallowed it, a decision which amazed even the unbiased spectators. And to rub salt into the wound Talbot went ahead to make the interval score 2—1. Muirkirk responded well in the second half and Inglis put them on level terms, and then the Muirkirk centre had the ball in the net again only to be adjudged offside. A decision which did not seem to please even the neutral linesman. Ten minutes from time McKie scored the winner for Talbot, and it must be said that the Auchinleck keeper, Paddy Burns, brought off some spectacular saves to deny Muirkirk, who were served by the following team:—Hill; Mair, Stillie; Kinnaird, Wyllie, Hight; Kerr, Steele, Inglis, McGowan, McIntosh.

And for another year, a team which promised so much, failed to deliver the goods when the chips were down. But nevertheless the entertainment provided by Muirkirk Juniors that year was enjoyed and appreciated, not only by local supporters, but by football enthusiasts over a wide area. It was really great to see the Muirkirk exiles coming to support the Juniors, especially at the away games.

THE LATE**MR AND MRS WILLIAM PETERS**

Many of our older readers would be sorry to learn of the passing of Mr and Mrs William Peters at Haddington. Mr Peters conducted his watchmakers and jeweller's business in Main Street here for a number of years. During his stay in Muirkirk he took a great interest in the social life of the place. He was more than an ordinary ventriloquist, and was adept at slight-of-hand work. A good musician, he was in turn chairman and a corner man in the first troop of Amateur Minstrels, and gave of his gifts freely. He removed to Haddington some 38 years ago. Mr Peters died suddenly on the Friday, and his good lady departed in the same way the next day.

GOLFING TREAT

Fourteen members of the local Club availed themselves of the privilege of playing over Old Prestwick last Wednesday, the courtesy of the course having been kindly granted them by the Old Prestwick Club. Availed is the correct operative word. They explored every avenue, visited every bunker and dug more sand than they did even in their “bucket and spade” days, even “guddled” the burn—successfully—for 65's which had strayed, saying nothing of the balls which went looking for railway tickets and proved non-returnable. With all their misfortunes the members thoroughly enjoyed themselves and hope that they can have another similar opportunity in the not-so-distant future.

OPEN-CAST

The huge excavators at the open-cast coal site near Boghead are making hills and valleys on the landscape uncovering the seams of precious coal. One “lump” uncovered last week had 9,000 tons of coal protruding above the surface, and it was estimated that there might be another 6,000 tons below. A visit to the site recalls the well-known quiting expression—“Anywhere on the clay.”

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1948**BIRTHS**

- NICOLL.—At Broughty Ferry on 17th January to Mr and Mrs G. Nicholl (Isobel Hogg); a daughter.
- STEWART.—At 20 Victoria Buildings on 29th February to Mr and Mrs Thomas Stewart; a daughter.
- SAXE.—At Edinburgh on 12th April to Mr and Mrs Saxe (Sheila Weir); a daughter.
- RAE.—At Dumfries on 14th April to Mr and Mrs J. Rae (Jessie Torbet); a son
- KAY.—At Lightshaw Farm on 16th June to Mr and Mrs Harold Kay (Margaret Lawson); a daughter.
- STIRLING.—At Douglas Place on 13th June to Mr and Mrs John Stirling (Betty Davidson); a son.
- DALZIEL.—At Douglas on 26th July to Mr and Mrs John Dalziel (Lottie Mathieson); a daughter.
- HAZLE.—At Douglas on 20th August to Mr and Mrs James Hazle (Mima Robb); a son.
- WILSON.—At Barleith on 12th Oct. to Mr and Mrs J. Wilson; a daughter.
- McPHAIL.—At Glasgow on 29th October to Mr and Mrs Hugh McPhail (Margaret Brown); a daughter.
- DEVINE.—At Kilmarnock on 30th November to Mr and Mrs William Devine (Nan McCaw); a daughter.

MARRIAGES

- WILLIAM AITKEN to ELIZABETH TOWLE on 13th February.
- WILLIAM BARR to AGNES SINCLAIR on 27th February.
- JOHN MUIR to JOYCE STRANGE on 21st February.
- ALEX. GRANT to MARGARET ANDERSON on 12th March.
- WILLIAM WALKER to JANET BELL on 12th March.
- ROBERT WILSON to ELIZABETH LOGIE on 3rd April.
- CHARLES BROWN to GRACE CHAPMAN on 10th April.
- JAMES MURDOCH to DIANA MACKAY on 12th May.
- ALFREDO DA'PRATO to MILDRED POLLITT on 22nd May.
- JAMES CRAWFORD to CHRISTINA DOW on 4th June.
- WILLIAM HAUGH to ELIZABETH BLAIR on 4th June.
- JAMES YARWOOD to JANET CALDOW on 5th June.
- HARRY HOWIE to PATRICIA DA'PRATO on 22nd June.
- JOHN SPENCE to MARGARET ROBERTSON on 26th June.
- JOHN DAVIES to DOROTHY MACKIN on 2nd July.
- HENRY LOCHHEAD to MARGARET ALLAN on 3rd July.
- JOHN PARKER to JOAN DEMPSTER on 24th July.
- HUGH PARKER to ANNE GOLDIE on 7th August.
- PETER FYFE to JEAN McKAY on 14th August.
- ARCHIBALD RENTON to ANNA CONDON on 14th August.
- JAMES LOGGIE to NANCY BROWN on 20th August.
- FORBES MARSHALL to AGNES McGARVA on 27th August.
- JOHN CLARK to ELIZABETH KENNEDY on 4th September.
- FREDERICK CRAWFORD to SARAH WALLACE on 10th September.
- JOHN DALRYMPLE to MARY WALLACE on 10th September.
- MATTHEW McADAM to JEAN FREW on 17th September.
- ROBERT OLDEN to AUDREY GOODLET on 14th September.
- REGINALD McATEE to SARAH BOLAND on 20th October
- WILLIAM ANDERSON to MARJORIE NICOLL on 29th October.
- THOMAS GRANT to ISOBEL BERTRAM on 28th October.
- WILLIAM LAIDLAW to HELEN GUTHRIE on 5th November.
- SAMUEL JOHNSTONE to MARION GILFILLAN on 25th December.

DEATHS

- ANDERSON.—At 136 Main Street on 2nd Jan. Agnes Anderson, aged 77.
- SAMSON.—At 23 Midhouse Row on 2nd January, Marion Taylor.
- AIRD.—In Australia on 27th Dec., 1947, George Aird, aged 57 years.
- BANKS.—At Ballochmyle on 10th Jan., Daniel Banks, aged 72.
- FERGUSON.—At Morton Place on 9th Jan., Agnes Laidlaw, aged 95 years.
- MONTGOMERY.—At 50 Glasgow Road on 11th January, Samuel Montgomery, aged 72 years.
- TORBET.—At Ballochmyle on 12th January, James Torbet.
- DUNSMORE.—At 48 Springhill Terrace on 18th January, William Dunsmore, aged 76 years.
- BERESFORD.—At Ballochmyle on 16th February, Maggie Aitken.
- McDOUGALL.—At 28 Wellwood Avenue on 17th February, John McDougall, aged 86 years.
- McCARTNEY.—In Canada on 12th January, Robert McCartney, aged 65 years (late of Glasgow Road).
- FINDLAY.—At 4 Midhouse Terrace on 26th February, Peter Findlay.
- HAMILTON.—At Hitchen on 2nd March, John Hamilton (45 New Terrace).
- HARKNESS.—In New Zealand on 7th March, Dan Harkness.
- MURRAY.—At Ballochmyle on 13th March, David Murray.
- McCRORIE.—At Cheshire on 7th March, William McCrorie, aged 8½ months
- GEBBIE.—At Ballochmyle on 18th March, Mary Cowan, aged 55 years (of 29 Springhill Terrace).
- SAUNDERS.—At 28 Garronhill on 27th March, Gracie Gilchrist, aged 45.
- STEELE.—At Kilmarnock on 26th March, Janet Steele, aged 65 years.
- DE MASCIO.—At 2 Kames Row on 28th March, Con. De Mascio, aged 68
- McLACHLAN.—At a hospital on 16th April, Mary Robb, aged 36 years (of 23 Garronhill).
- McCALL.—At Garronhill House on 26th April, Jas McCall, 84 years.
- NELSON.—At Ayr on 26th April, Marion Weir, aged 54 years (of 3 Jubilee Row, Glenbuck).
- WALLACE.—At Musselburgh Nellie McLaughlan, aged 34 years (of Cairnhill, Smallburn).
- BEGG.—At "Ardbeg" on 16th May, Margaret Wardrope, aged 81.
- NISBET.—At Main St., on 24th May, Agnes Johnstone, aged 92
- MUIR.—At Greenockmains Farm on 8th June, Helen Muir, aged 75
- WEIR.—At Co-operative Buildings, Glenbuck, on 3rd June, Janet Harkness, aged 83 years.
- PETERS.—At Haddington on 18th June, William Peters, jeweller; also on 19th June, Henrietta Millar, dearly loved wife of William Peters
- CROSBIE.—At Clutha, Wellwood Street, on 26th June, David Crosbie (Retired Grocer), aged 71 years.
- CROSBIE.—At Ayr on 12th July, Robert Crosbie, aged 74 (Glenbuck).
- LESLIE.—At Paisley on 13th July, Annie Dreghorn.
- SAMSON.—At Darvel on 31st July, Jeannie Samson.
- GOLD.—At Albert Place on 4th September, John Gold, aged 71 years.
- FOSTER.—At Ballochmyle on 7th Sept., Mary Lee, aged 50 years (of Kames Farm).
- FORBES.—At Wellwood Street on 4th October, Jane Telfer.
- HOGG.—At 35 Glasgow Rd. on 2nd Oct., Thomson Hogg, aged 64
- LOGIE.—At Ballochmyle on 6th October, Andrew Logie, aged 73 years (of 36 New Terrace).
- MASTERSON.—At 13 Garronhill House on 19th November, Mary Milligen, aged 76 years
- WEIR.—At Glasgow on 10th December, James Weir, aged 85 years.
- HAMILTON.—At Glasgow on 21st December, John N. Hamilton.
- TAYLOR.—At 59 Glasgow Road on 22nd December, Mary Wilson..

CHAPTER FORTY-TWO

(1949)

FIRE AT OLD PARISH CHURCH

At 10.45 p.m. on Thursday evening (13th January) the grand Old Parish Church of Muirkirk was afire. The fire was first seen by the Reverend Myles Moriarty, who took immediate and very thorough action. The Parish Minister was on the scene at 10.50. By that time, although dense smoke to floor level made it impossible to enter the front door of the church or the vestry door and attempt even to ascertain the location of the fire; flames were visible only at the church end of the vestry, and it was hoped that the fire could be confined to the vestry. Within a few minutes the local fire section arrived and organised, and began their attack with remarkable efficiency and speed. The Minister, Police Sergeant and Constable made efforts to penetrate into the church, but were repeatedly driven back. There was no lack whatever of willing helpers, and indeed it was movingly obvious to the rainsoaked crowds, that firemen, police and everyone else were prepared to do everything and take any risk to attempt to save the Kirk. But the strong wind blowing the length of the church baffled all their efforts. Moreover, it soon became obvious that a fire was located in the pulpit area of the building and that it had been raging there for some time, the flames being driven through the old pulpit door into the vestry. When the memorial windows collapsed, it seemed that the whole building must be gutted. But the firemen then attacked the fire from the roof and, fighting hard all the time, managed to control and finally extinguish it. The first attack on the roof revealed that the fiercest fire had been raging there, and indeed most damage has been done to the roof. Time and again, the whole building was silhouetted in flames and when the roof fell it seemed that nothing, not even the walls could be left. It was a tragic night for Muirkirk and many in the crowds were moved to tears.

Again and again efforts were made to recover some of the memorials. Mr Francis Lochhead led one party which recovered the pulpit drape and almost succeeded in dragging the Communion Table to safety. There was no reason to hope for anything but the worst, but when the church was entered on the following day it was found that many of the pews were still intact, though damaged, and that the pulpit was almost untouched.

N.F.S. experts who examined the debris on Friday were totally unable to find any probable cause of the fire. The vestry where the choir had practised was almost untouched and very definitely the seat of the fire was in the church. The suggestion that the new organ installation might be responsible was immediately eliminated by the fact that no wiring on this had been begun, and could not be started until the motor had been attached to the bellows. The decision of the experts was that the "cause or causes were unknown."

Parishioners may be very thankful that so much of the fabric remains and that when roofed, the building could be available again for worship within a comparatively short time. It is unthinkable that this venerable and dignified link with the whole history of Muirkirk can long remain in ruin. In fact, nothing is more certain that the damage will be repaired as expeditiously as possible, and that it will be possible to recover many features of the old church which were lost at the reconstruction in 1809.

The Editor wrote:

It was a sad and awe-inspiring spectacle to see the hungry flames wreak havoc with the Old Parish Church on Thursday night. Many folk stood for hours in the wind and rain (others slept through the night blissfully unaware of the fire) and

there were many expressions of regret that the Auld Kirk had suffered so badly.

From the Ordnance Gazetteer I note that the Parish Church was built in 1812, renovated in 1883 at a cost of £1,700, and repaired in 1893. It had 800 sittings.

The familiar grey walls still stand, gaunt and roofless, inside the scene is of desolation and ruin, but the pulpit juts out hopefully above the rows of dirty, woebegone looking seats, and the day will surely dawn when the Old Church will set out a new and, I hope, a greater era in its history and that of the town.

OLD LINK SEVERED

By the death of Miss Annie Gibson at her home in Main Street on Saturday (29th January), a link with old Muirkirk was severed. Miss Gibson was of the firm of Gibson's, the Grocers, which closed down about a year ago after having been in existence for about 85 years. Memories of the wee grocery shop and the kindly service of the fine old ladies will doubtless remain with many of our readers.

ELECTION RESULTS

COUNTY COUNCIL (One Seat)	
James G. Samson (Labour)	1485
Thomas Shaw (Communist)	170
DISTRICT COUNCIL (Two Seats)	
George M. Bain (Labour)	1416
Archibald Smith (Labour).....	1332
Harry Murray (Communist).....	217
James Masterton (Communist)	200

TRAGIC ACCIDENT

The sad news reached Muirkirk last Tuesday night (19th July) that Reggie McAtee, a popular member of Muirkirk Juniors' team, had been gravely injured in a motor cycle accident, and later that he had passed away at Ballochmyle Hospital. It appears that Reggie had been riding pillion on his way home to Auchinleck from his work at Barony Colliery, when the accident occurred. An unassuming young man, Reggie was a grand sportsman, and a player of great heart, and he will be sadly missed. Only a year ago he was married to a Muirkirk girl, Miss Sarah Boland, and to his young wife and relatives we extend our heartfelt sympathy at their sad and heavy loss.

CHAMPION EGG PRODUCER



Black Leghorn bred by Mr J. D. McPate, Winner of the Lancashire Federation Challenge Cup—237 Eggs in 48 Weeks.

SEEN AND HEARD

Latest idea in the fire alarm system is the installation of a siren on top of the Regal Cinema as a means of summoning the firemen.

Mr E. M. Kerr, manager at the Clydesdale Bank for the past eight years was transferred to Dennistoun. Mr James Ford, Stewarton Branch, has been appointed in his place.

In March the railway station of Dumfries House on the Muirkirk-Ayr line was closed down.

Davie McCrone, a well-known Muirkirk personality, died in March. In his younger days Davie was a driver of horse-drawn trams in Glasgow.

Mr W. Cook was appointed greenkeeper at Muirkirk Bowling Club.

Miss Margaret Livingstone was chosen as Muirkirk's Coal Queen.

Mrs J. Murray transferred her Newsagents business at 34 Main Street to Messrs Wyllie & Son.

The newly erected E.U. Church Hall at the Stile was opened in April.

The end of sweetie rationing was announced in April.

Muirkirk Continuation Choral Class Choir won the Edinburgh Choral Union Trophy, together with an honours certificate at the Edinburgh Musical Festival.

At Furnace Road School Donald Borthwick won the boys' sports championship, while the girls went to Jean Menzies.

Rev. Malcolm Pollock, Wellwood Church, was appointed Minister at Glenluce.

Mr and Mrs James Park, Garronhill, celebrated their golden wedding. They were married in 1899, and had a family of 13, of whom eight sons and three daughters survive. The couple have 27 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren

George Bradford was the Dux at Muirkirk School.

The congregations of Muirkirk Old Parish Church and Wellwood Church voted to be merged. The union of the Churches took place at Wellwood Church in September.

David Wyllie, of Lapraik Avenue, died as the result of an accident at Kames Colliery in July.

The death was announced of Mr Alex. Templeton. Mr Templeton came to Muirkirk 42 years ago, and until 1943 he carried on the business as Chemist in Main Street.

Dr. T. C. Frame left Muirkirk to take up an appointment in Ayr. Dr Frame came to Muirkirk in 1938 and for 6½ years partnered Dr John Cameron here till the latter left Muirkirk for Rothesay and was succeeded by Dr John Weir.

Glenbuck village lost one of its oldest and most respected inhabitants with the death of Mr George Bain, sen., who was the founder of the firm of Messrs George Bain & Sons, Fruit-ers, who were well known throughout the County. He was 82 years of age.

The local dance band combination, the Melody Quintette, were proving very popular.

The Welcome Cafe, 109 Main Street, across from Main Street School, was taken over by Mr R. H. Brown.

The death was announced of Mr Robert Thomson, a well-known Muirkirk business personality. Mr Thomson commenced his hardware business in Main Street in 1905, later removing to Furnace Road, where since his retiral in 1939 the business has been carried on by his son, Mr R. R. Thomson. The shop was affectionately known as "The Dandy's."

NO SUNDAY GOLF

With Ballochmyle, Cumnock and New Cumnock all enjoying Sunday golf, a move was made to have this amenity at Auldhouseburn, but after it was agreed at a special meeting, the tenant farmer at Auldhouseburn Farm intimated that he was not in favour of Sunday golf—much to the disappointment of local members.

MUIRKIRK TOP TEN GIRLS

("Weekly News" Competition)



Sarah Hill, Nan Logie, Margaret Allan, Isobel Dempster, Nettie McCartney



Helen Strickland, Joan Dempster, Greta Fleming, Margaret Haugh, Betty Paterson

THE LATE MRS AGNES FETTES

Many of our readers would share our regret on learning of the passing of an old friend in the person of Mrs Fettes, at her home at Sauchrie, Smallburn, on 2nd June. Widowed in 1915—her husband was Mr Peter Fettes, tailor, and a well-known figure in Masonic circles—Mrs Fettes (nee Agnes Gilchrist) went back to the teaching profession, and for over thirty years she steered many of us through part of our youthful training. Her firm, but kindly guidance, her keen sense of humour, and her friendly interest in her pupils, past and present, will be remembered by all who passed through Mrs Fettes' class at Main Street School. Outwith the school, her services were in demand as a speaker and elocutionist, and many local organisations had her willing assistance, while she was also a prominent member of local sketch parties. Her pawky Scots readings and rendering of Burns's poems, perhaps notably the "Address to a Haggis" at Burns functions, enhanced many a social occasion. A native of Muirkirk, Mrs Fettes was in her 70th year, and had been ill for several months. To her son and his wife, Mr and Mrs S. W. Fettes, who flew back from Lisbon recently, and to her bosom companion, Miss Sunderland, we extend our deep sympathy at this time.

FOOTBALL (Season 1948-49)

The above season will undoubtedly go down in history as the best ever so far as local junior football is concerned. It was the season when football was the only concern in the village, and the supporters, as well as those not directly involved, will never forget the exploits of their local junior team.

Muirkirk Junior F.C. team put Muirkirk on the map and brought out exiles from near and far, and gave the village some memories that will never be erased in their attempt to bring the Scottish Cup to Ladeside Park. Let the files unfold the story.

The season started quietly enough, but in the second week the talking point was the resignation of the Junior's' secretary, Mr Michael Boland. Mr Steve Bradford was appointed in his place.

In the 1st round of the Scottish Cup Muirkirk were drawn at home to Burnbank Athletic, and a thrilling match ended in a draw of five goals each. Burnbank were a big team, but Muirkirk had the better of the exchanges in the first half, and were leading 4-1 with goals by Inglis, Steele, McIntosh, and Freckleton. Burnbank hit back to make the half-time score 4-2. The second half opened sensationally with Inglis making it 5-2 after two minutes, and it looked all over. Burnbank had other ideas and in a storming finish scored thrice to level the scores, the equaliser coming in the last minute. Muirkirk team:—Mackin; Ralton, Mair; McAtee, Wyllie, Highet; Freckleton, Steele, Inglis, Kinnaird, McIntosh.

In the replay Jock Inglis had the ball in the net after only 30 seconds, and Muirkirk were on their way. Further goals by McIntosh and Inglis brought the score to 3-0. The homesters reduced the leeway, but Steele converted a penalty to give Muirkirk victory. Team:—Mackin; Ballantyne, Mair; Kinnaird, McAtee, Stillie; McTurk, Steele, Inglis, Freckleton, McIntosh. . It should be added that Joe Mackin in goal for Muirkirk brought off some tremendous saves in both games.

Round two took the Juniors to Shettleston, and although the home side played above their form, the same could not be said of Muirkirk, who nevertheless managed to get the desired result. McIntosh, Kinnaird, and Inglis scored in the first half, but it was only good enough to earn a 3-3 interval draw. Inglis and Ballantyne clinched the issue with goals in the second half. Team:—Mackin; Ralton, Stillie; Kinnaird, Mair, Highet; Ballantyne, Steele, Inglis, Freckleton, McIntosh.

After a bye in Round Three, Muirkirk were drawn away to Rosyth Recreation for a 4th Round Ne'erday tie. Some 600 supporters travelled with Muirkirk and were treated to a fast entertaining game, and Rosyth proved themselves to be a very capable side. The final score of 0-0 seemed a fair result, although Mackin in the Muirkirk goal was called upon on several occasions to bring off some remarkable saves.

The replay at Muirkirk was not for the faint-hearted, and a real he-man tussle took place. Rosyth will be remembered as one of the best sides ever to visit Ladeside. It was raining and heavy going, and both teams contributed to a fine game. The first half ended all square, Inglis and Kinnaird scoring for Muirkirk, and McLeod netting twice for Rosyth. There was plenty of drama in the second half. Inglis put Muirkirk in the lead and when Steele scored from the penalty to make it 4-2 it looked all over. Back came Rosyth, with 13 minutes left Syme made it 4-3. Then with only two minutes left a strange silence fell over Ladeside when the visitors were awarded a penalty kick. The Muirkirk support went wild when Mackin saved the spot kick, and the home defence held on grimly to earn a famous victory. Man of the match was of course Mackin, with Inglis playing his part up front. Team:—Mackin; McAtee, Stillie; Ballantyne, Mair, Highet; Colquhoun, Kinnaird, Inglis, Steele, McIntosh.

In the 5th Round Muirkirk were drawn away to the strong-going Cambuslang Rangers. Somervell Park was packed with a 7,500 crowd, including about 1,000 from Muirkirk. It looked all over for the Ladeside men when Cambuslang took a 2-0 lead—it could have been more but for the brilliance of Mackin. With about seven minutes to go Kelly swung the ball into the centre and Inglis rounded the centre half, and smack! from about 15 yards range the leather sped like lightning into the back of the net. A thousand Muirkirk voices roared themselves hoarse, and two minutes from the end Inglis got his chance again and sent the ball screaming into the net to square the game at 2-2.

The scene at Ladeside Park the following Saturday was unprecedented. A crowd of 6,000 converged on the park from all airts, and a hard game ended in a 2-2 draw. McGuinness opened for Cambuslang and Inglis equalised for Muirkirk, to make the score at half-time 1-1. Rangers scored in the first minute of the second period through Hannah. As the game progressed the local support should signs of anxiety, and then with eight minutes left Kinnaird headed home the equaliser, and the tables were set for a grand stand finish from Muirkirk, but Rangers held on. It had been a marvellous occasion for the village of Muirkirk, the likes of which will never be seen again. Three special trains, a fleet of between 70 and 80 'buses, and over 120, cars brought a host of fans from over a wide area. The double-decker 'buses were parked on the Works Road on the village side of the railway and on the ground around the old Ironworks Store. Single-decked 'buses and cars stretched from the Station up and around Linkieburn and The Square and up past the Ironworks Institute as far as Springhill, as well as along the Old Terrace. Extra gates were installed at Ladeside. The writer, cycling to the town to get the final result to the Press, looked back at the top of the Furnace Road to see a human wave converging on to the Water Ayr Bridge—what an awe-inspiring sight!

And so to Craighead Park, Lesmahagow, for the second replay, where a crowd of 8,000 gathered. After extra-time the game ended in a draw of 0-0, which was not an unjust result. Muirkirk took the honours for playing constructive football. The game itself was hard fought. Cambuslang had a penalty which Bell crashed against the bar, and at the other end Steele had a shot which struck the post and ran along the goal line, with most people thinking it was a goal; Steele had played the game of his life, but both teams lived to fight another day.

There was a breather the next Saturday from cup-tie football for Muirkirk with a junior international match being played at Firhill. Joe Mackin was in goal for Scotland, who won 1-0. That day Muirkirk entertained Darvel in a League game and won 2-0, and the substitute goalkeeper for the homesters, Andy Craig, "put up the shutters."

Then it was all roads to Somerset Park, Ayr, for the fourth encounter with Cambuslang Rangers on 6th March. A crowd of 10,00 were kept on tenterhooks for the full ninety minutes of a rousing tussle. In the 10th minute a cross from Ellis caught Mackin napping. He appeared to have the ball well covered but let it slip from his hands and McKenzie got it over the line for a very soft goal. There was no further scoring. The file report summed up:—

"It was a hard and punishing game with 22 triers but few stars. Willie Ballantyne was again the personality in defence and shared the honours with his partner McAtee. The others all played hard, although the defence was not so solid. It was hard luck on Mackin, whose brilliance has played such an important part in his Club's cup run, that Muirkirk's exit was caused by that fatal mistake, but that's football. Still, the forwards must take their share of the blame. They had their moments, but too close play and those missed chances played a big part in their defeat

Nevertheless, a great run by the Ladeside Park team, and what entertainment they gave their supporters. To think that over the four Cambuslang ties, a total of 31,500 spectators were treated to some thrilling entertainment.

Muirkirk teams were as follows:—

1st Game	2nd Game	3rd Game	4th Game
Mackin;	Mackin;	Mackin;	Mackin;
McAtee,	McAtee,	McAtee,	Ballantyne,
Stillie;	Stillie;	Stillie;	McAtee;
Ballantyne,	Ballantyne	Kinnaird,	Kinnaird,
Mair,	Mair,	Mair,	Mair,
Hight;	Hight;	Hight;	Hight;
Kelly,	Kelly,	Ballantyne,	Gladstone,
Kinnaird,	Steele,	Steele,	Steele,
Inglis,	Inglis,	Inglis,	Inglis,
Steele,	Kinnaird	Freckleton	Freckleton,
McIntosh.	McIntosh.	McIntosh	McIntosh

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1949

BIRTHS

SMITH.—At Irvine on 4th January to Mr and Mrs James Smith; a son.

JAMIESON.—At Bankend, Muirkirk, on 1st February to Mr and Mrs William Jamieson; a daughter.

McCARTNEY.—On 3rd April to Mr and Mrs J. C. McCartney; a daughter.

MONTGOMERY.—At Prestwick on 6th May to Mr and Mrs J. Montgomery (Ena Da Prato); a daughter.

CALDOW.—At Irvine on 23rd May to Mr and Mrs W. Caldwell (Margaret Gilchrist); a daughter.

ORMISTON.—In New York on 18th May, to Mr and Mrs Douglas Ormiston (Betty Samson); a daughter.

HAZEL.—At Irvine on 5th June to Mr and Mrs A. Hazel (Mary Harrison); a daughter.

BAIN.—At Irvine on 20th June to Mr and Mrs James Bain (Isabella Lawson); a son.

McLEOD.—At Glasgow on 5th July to Mr and Mrs John McLeod (Jean Williamson); a son.

GRANT.—In South Africa on 4th July to Mr and Mrs T. Grant (Sarah Findlay); a son.

McATEE.—At Auchinleck on 31st July, to Mrs Sarah McAtee (Boland) and the late Reginald McAtee; a son.

O'DONNELL.—At 21 Midhouse Row on 15th October to Mr and Mrs Patrick O'Donnell (Theresa Boland); twin sons.

CLARK.—At Douglas on 26th November to Mr and Mrs John Clark (Betty Kennedy); a daughter.

CULLEY.—At Kilwinning on 14th November to Mr and Mrs William Culley (Jenny Brown); a son.

MARRIAGES

WILLIAM McCALL to SADIE RUSSELL on 14th January.

JAMES WARDROP to AGNES MITCHELL on 5th March.

WILLIAM (Crilly) ANDERSON to AGNES McINALLY on 9th March.

JOHN ROSS to JESSIE CLARK on 18th March.

JAMES DAVIDSON to MARY MITCHELL on 26th March.

PETER DEVLIN to JANET COWAN on 25th March.

THOMAS HALL to MARY McBRIDE on 26th March.

JAMES STEELE to THELMA NEWSUM on 26th March.

JACK SUTHERLAND to JANET MILLAR

JOHN TAYLOR to MARJORIE LOGIE on 26th March.

JAMES WALLACE to EUPHEMIA DOUGLAS on 23rd March.

JOHN THOMSON to KATHLEEN D'ARCY on 30th March.

ARCHIBALD HUNTER to ISOBEL HARRIGAN on 29th April.

WILLIAM RALTON to ROBINA MURPHY on 30th April.

JOHN WILSON to MARION JOHNSTONE on 4th June.

ROBERT McLAGAN to JEAN MARSHALL on 6th June.

WILLIAM MURRAY to CATHERINE RENNIE on 15th June.

THOMAS PALMER to MARION GRAY on 24th June.

DERRICK THOMAS to KATHLEEN NORTH on 25th June.

GEORGE MURDOCH to SARAH DAVIS on 16th July.

JOHN McAVOY to FRANCES FORD on 30th July.

WM. DOUGLAS to HELEN KIRKWOOD on 5th August

HUGH SAMSON to JOHAN CLUCKIE on 20th August.

JOE DAVIDSON to IRENE SULLIVAN on 27th August.

JOHN BLACKWOOD to JANET RENTON on 9th September.

JAMES McCARTNEY to MILDRED HEAYN.

ALEXANDER MILLAR to JANE ROBB on 30th September.

JAMES RUSSELL to ISOBELLE BIRRELL on 1st October.

GEORGE TAYLOR to ELIZABETH DUNSMORE on 14th October.

THOMAS RENDALL to JANET McLACHLAN on 29th October.

WM. SMITH to ETHEL GARDINER on 4th November.

ROBERT HAMILTON to MARGARET MONTGOMERY on 11th November.

MATHIESON GARDINER to AGNES MURDOCH on 17th December.

JOHN McCULLOCH to MARY GERRARD on 24th December.

RICHARD WILSON to HOWIETTA PARKER on 24th December.

DEATHS

CLARK.—At Ayr on 5th January, James Clark, aged 45 years.
 JOYCE.—At Cambridge on 24th December, 1948, Alison Joyce.
 WARDROP.—At Knightswood on 7th January, Christina Weir, aged 58 years (late of Glenbuck).
 HANNAH.—At 106 Main Street on 15th January, Andrew Hannah, aged 68 years.
 MILLER.—At Edinburgh on 14th January, Jessie Menzies (late of Glenbuck).
 MONTGOMERY.—At 10 Bridge Street on 22nd January, Elizabeth Samson, aged 49 years.
 PURDIE.—At 31 Middlefield Drive on 23rd January, James Purdie, aged 80 years.
 GIBSON.—At Main Street on 29th January, Annie Barr, aged 86 years.
 WILSON.—At Glasgow on 3rd February, Christina Wilson.
 CAMPBELL.—At 12 Kames Row on 12th February, Margaret Peacock, aged 68 years.
 GIBSON.—At Law Hospital on 16th February, Mary Gibson (late of Darnhunch).
 LIVINGSTONE.—In Canada on 18th February, Margaret Livingstone, aged 66 years (late of Glenbuck).
 MITCHELL.—At 25a Garronhill on 19th February, John Mitchell, aged 51 years.
 McCORMICK.—At Ballochmyle on 27th February, John McCormick, aged 41 years (of 3 Old Terrace).
 GIBSON.—At Manchester on 13th March, Margaret Marshall, aged 59 years.
 GEBBIE.—At 52 Garronhill on 15th March, Robert Gebbie, aged 61 years.
 McCRONE.—At 25 Garronhill on 19th March, David McCrone.
 GILCHRIST.—At 8 Smallburn on 28th March, Jeanie Parker.
 McCOUBRIE.—At Stirling on 27th March, John McCoubrie, aged 63 years.
 MURDOCH.—At Main Street on 29th March, Sarah Gibson.
 O'BRIEN.—At a Hospital on 28th March, Bridget Kelly, aged 74 years (of 32 New Terrace).
 WOODBURN.—At 7 Midhouse Row on 2nd April, John Woodburn.
 MATHIESON.—At 135 Main Street on 13th April, James Mathieson, aged 83 years.
 TAIT.—At Croydon on 6th April, Alex. Tait, aged 77 years (late of Glenbuck).
 THOMSON.—At Ayr on 22nd April, Samuel Thomson.
 WALLACE.—At Glenburn, Muirkirk, on 28th April, Jane Sharp.
 PALMER.—At a Hospital on 3rd May, Margaret Lapping, aged 57 years (of 10 Wellwood Avenue).
 BROWN.—Accidentally killed in a plane crash in West Africa on 2nd May, James Brown.
 LESLIE.—At Remore, Wellwood Street, on 7th May, Christina Alexander.
 WEIR.—In Detroit on 7th May, Margaret Weir (late of Glenbuck).
 BARRIE.—At 46 Garronhill on 31st May, Susan Clark, aged 80 years.
 FETTES.—At Sauchrie, Smallburn, on 2nd June, Agnes Gilchrist, aged 70 years.
 PEACOCK.—At Cleland on 24th May, Janet Peacock, aged 89 years.

WOOD.—In U.S.A. on 4th June, Rev. D. Wood.
 WYLLIE.—At Hairmyres on 12th July, David Wyllie, aged 43 years (of Lapraik Avenue).
 McMILLAN.—At Wellwood Schoolhouse on 22nd July, James McMillan, aged 76 years.
 MOFFAT.—At Ballater Lodge on 31st August, Robert Moffat, aged 93 years (late of Kames Farm).
 WILSON.—On 3rd September, Matthew Wilson, aged 24 years.
 RUSSELL.—At 2 Miller Road on 5th October, Helen McQueen, aged 67 years.
 HAMILTON.—At E.R.I. on 13th October, James Hamilton, aged 40 years.
 BAIN.—At Glasgow on 25th October, George Bain, Fruit-er, Glenbuck, aged 82 years.
 DUNBAR.—At Old Hall, Muirkirk, on 27th October, Annie Millar.
 GARDINER.—At Ballochmyle on 5th November, John Gardiner, aged 78 years (of March House).
 LOCHRIE.—At Ballochmyle on 5th November, Alexander Lochrie, aged 38 years (of 40 Springhill Terrace).
 MORRAN.—At Woodview, 12 Garronhill, on 6th November, Cecilla McLaughlin.
 VALLANCE.—At 47 Smallburn on 8th November, George Vallance, aged 68 years.
 BAIN.—At Spieslack Row, Glenbuck, on 16th November, David Bain, aged 52 years.
 THOMSON.—At 15 Furnace Road on 28th November, Robert Thomson, aged 78 years.
 LOWE.—At 14 Lapraik Avenue on 29th November, Robert Lowe, aged 78 years.
 LITTLE.—At Paisley on 6th December, Isabella Little, aged 38 years (of 27 Kames Row).
 JOHNSTON.—At Darvel on 12th December, William Johnston, Dentist, aged 68 years.
 WILSON.—In U.S.A. on 8th December, Fred Wilson.
 WILSON.—At 87 Main Street on 6th December, Annie Stitt, aged 56 years.
 SOMERVILLE.—At New York on 3rd November, Charles Somerville, aged 80 years.
 URQUHART.—At Ardrossan on 18th December, Christina McLean.
 COOK.—At 34 Glasgow Road on 30th December, Alexander Cook.

SOME MORE SNIPPETS

Rev. T. Donaldson Barr, Minister at Muirkirk Old Parish Church, left in March to take up a new appointment at Jordanvale Parish Church, Glasgow.

The Co-operative Gala Queen, Jean Menzies, was crowned at a ceremony in the Victory Park. The Herald was George Bradford.

Mr and Mrs John Irvine, Wellwood Cottage, celebrated their golden wedding. The couple were married at New Cumnock in 1899. Mr Irvine is a native of this Parish, and all his life he has been a horseman. He was 25 years with the late Thomas Henderson, hirer, and the same number with Baird & Dalmellington, two of which were spent at Kames Colliery as a horse feeder. They had a family of twelve (three sons and eight daughters still surviving).

CHAPTER FORTY-THREE

(1950)

TABLE OF TOLLS

PAYABLE AT THE EAST END OF
MUIRKIRK BAR

	s.	d.
For every Horse or other Beast of draught, drawing any Coach, Chariot, Chaise, Chair, Hearse, or other such Carriage	0	6
For every Horse, Ox, or other Beast of Draught, drawing any waggon, Wain, Van, Caravan, Cart, or other Wheeled Carriage, not on Springs, when the number shall amount to or exceed 4.....	0	6
When the number shall be 3	0	6
When the number shall be 2 or 1	0	4
For every Horse, Mule, or other Beast of Burden, laden or unladen, but not drawing	0	2½
For every Drove of Oxen, or Neat Cattle, per score, and so on in greater or less number	0	10½
For every Drove of Horses or Fillies, unshod, per score, and so on in proportion for any greater or less number	1	3
For every Drove of Calves, Sheep, Lambs, Hogs, or Goats, per score, and so on in proportion for any greater or lesser number	0	3½

Assess to be charged only Half Toll.

THIS BAR CLEARS GLENBUCK BAR

The above is a copy of a Notice Board which was found the other day during renovations at what used to be the Toll at the east end of Muirkirk. It measures about three feet by two feet, and is painted on black on white, although both colours are not so fresh as they doubtless been, and the prices had been varied, as sometimes figures had been painted over, and both are disclosed.

Some Notes

A Wain is an elongated hay cart.

Neat Cattle are Black Cattle or Nowt (Scots.).

Toll Bars were placed on turnpike roads only, and not on parish or subsidiary roads.

The Roads and Bridges Act of 1878 abolished the old custom of maintaining roads by levying tolls, and transferred the duty of constructing roads to town councils and road trustees.

Droves of horses, cattle, and sheep were common when fairs for live stock were in vogue in the country periodically, and private bargaining was the rule, but these fairs gave way to the auction markets.

Then, instead of cattle being driven on the roads, their transport has been largely absorbed by rail vans and motor lorries.

A Toll-house was generally a single-storey building and often white-washed. Many will remember Kirkburnhead Toll (now demolished), and the Glenbuck Toll-house (still standing) is a good example. Generally there was a window at the end of the house, from which traffic could be seen.

The bar consisted of a substantial hinged wooden gate crossing the road, a heavy post at each end, with a wicket gate for foot passengers at one side, and a paling covered each verge. All were painted white.

A ticket was given at the first Toll Bar, and paid for, and on this ticket was printed the name of the neighbouring Toll Bars which it cleared without further payment.

For instance, a ticket procured at the above Toll would clear Kirkburnhead, Smallburn, Wellwood and Glenbuck, going and coming, for the day only, and each ticket was dated. At Tolls further on another ticket would have to be paid for.

The leases of the Tolls were issued periodically, and sometimes one party held leases for several Tolls and employed keepers.

Many of the Tolls held licenses, and some which were not licensed were reputed shebeens.

Old institutions die hard, and many old Tolls and wayside buildings still supply soft drinks, etc., to weary wayside travellers.

1950 GALA DAY



SEEN AND HEARD

Mr and Mrs Thomas Morrison, 101 Main Street, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. The couple were married at Lugar in 1894, and had a family of 15, three sons and five daughters still survive. There are 30 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

James Cannon took over the fish and chip shop at 104 Main Street previously carried on by Harry Murray.

Michael Boland, Painter & Decorator, opened his new premises at 94 Main Street.

At a dance in the ironworks Institute, Helen Strickland was chosen as the Muirkirk representative in the Scottish Coal Queen competition.

Rev. George Robertson, M.A., was inducted as Minister of the new united Parish Church in April.

Six young foxes were killed on Wardlaw last week (April).

In May C. & J. Rowe opened an ice-cream factory at Townhead to the rear of Main Street.

An eel, measuring 22 inches was hooked in the River Ayr.

It was intimated in June that the opencast coal site near the Skew Bridge was to close down.

Mr and Mrs James Ramage, Park Cottage, celebrated their golden wedding in June. They were married at Kirkburnhead Toll in 1900. They had a family of four, of whom one son and two daughters survive. There are three grandchildren. Mr Ramage is a native of Rigside, while Mrs Ramage, a Muirkirk girl, was formerly Margaret Spence.

At Muirkirk Junior Secondary School the Girls Sports Championship was won by Margaret Simpson, while the boys' honour went to John Gardiner.

The Dux of the School in 1950 was Crosbie Matthews.

In July Dungavel House (locally known as the Grouse Lodge), was acquired by the National Coal Board.

Another well-known couple celebrated their golden wedding in the persons of Mr and Mrs Matt. Anderson, Gasworks Cottage. The couple were married in 1900. Mr Anderson made a name for himself in sporting circles, being a keen quoiting and bowling member. Matt. became one of the best

known personalities in the County, and represented Muirkirk Athletic from 1903 to 1926. He started his working career at the age of twelve in the old Forge, and for a time was in the blacksmiths at the Ironworks before taking up mining.

In August preparatory work in connection with the open-cast coal mining site at Bankend was commenced.

Mr James Murdoch, Railway Buildings, was appointed Janitor at Muirkirk Junior Secondary School, in place of Mr James McCartney, who had been promoted to a district post.

Mr William H. Martin, Missionary-in-Charge at Kames Mission Church for the past 13 years, retired in September, and was marked with a social and presentation in the Church. Mr Martin had been a very popular member of the community, and took a keen interest in the welfare of the young, particularly the Boys' Brigade. Mr Martin and his daughter were taking up residence in Dollar.

James Cannon intimated that he had taken over the Derby Cafe in Glasgow Road, the former proprietress being Mrs Da Prato.

Mr George Currie took over the Newsagent and Confectioner business previously carried on by Mr W. B. R. Girvan at 51 Main Street in November.

The Bleach and Hardware business at 79 Main Street was offered for sale.

Mr William McCall, a native of Muirkirk, was appointed Manager at a Colliery in Brora. He had been Under-Manager at Dalkeith Colliery for 17 years.

The licence for the public house at 6 Main Street was transferred to Mrs Catherine Rennie or Murray, Knoweview, Muirkirk.

Mr Joseph Murdoch, M.A., was appointed Headmaster at Muirkirk Junior Secondary School. Mr Murdoch is a native of Glenbuck, and was Dux at Muirkirk School in 1925.

Rev. Arthur Robertson, Minister at Muirkirk E.U. Church, left to take over a larger congregation at St. Monance in Fife.

Mr James G. Samson, after a long period of ill-health, retired as our local County Councillor. District Councillor George M. Bain was nominated by the Labour Party for the position.

1951 GALA DAY

OLD MINSTREL

Eighty-One years young, and still with the knack for gags, impromptu verses, and songs, is Muirkirk's old minstrel, Harry Caldwell. I hear the well-known Logan family have acquired the singing rights of a little song of Harry's—"Broken Hearts take Long to Mend," a verse and the refrain of which are given herewith:—

Here I'm sitting all alone, dear,
Thinking of the days gone by,
When we used to stroll together
Down the valley, you and I;
Now those days are gone forever,
All is over now it seems,
Yet forget, dear, I'll never,
You are always in my dreams.

Chorus:

Here, I linger on, repining,
Wondering how it will all end,
Ever seeking, never finding,
Broken hearts take long to mend.

NEW STORE MANAGER AT GLENBUCK

Mr Logie Davidson, head salesman with Messrs Currie, New Cumnock, has been appointed manager of Glenbuck Co-operative Society in succession to Mr A. V. Hazle, who has resigned to take over the Royal Arms Bar. It is interesting to note that Mr Davidson, a Glenbuck native, started his working career in the Store, and was in fact the first boy to be employed by the Society.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1949	1948
Births	58	52
Marriages	38	41
Deaths	34	29

SOUTH AYRSHIRE ELECTION RESULT

EMRYS HUGHES (Lab.)	22,284
J. C. GEORGE (Con.)	14,717
Labour Majority	7,567

FOOTBALL (Season 1949-50)

After all the euphoria of the previous season, it was asking a lot for a repeat of Muirkirk Juniors' performances in the new season. Muirkirk got away to a good start with some fine League wins, although they lost 4-2 to Cumnock.

There was bitter disappointment when they went out in the 1st round of the Scottish Cup to Clydebank Juniors 4—1 at Ladeside Park. The team was:—Mackin; Mair, Stillie; Kinnaird, Smith, Hight; McFarlane, Murray, McCulloch, Steele, Brown. It was the same story in the West of Scotland Cup when Cleland won 4—2.

The Juniors kept plugging away at the League and had a great victory over Cumnock in December, winning 5—3 in a rousing encounter. The Muirkirk scorers were McCulloch (2), Bruce, Steele (pen.), and McLaren. They also returned a good result by beating Talbot 2—1 at Auchinleck.

With the League title within their grasp, the Juniors faltered in the run-in, and ended the season, as usual, without any honours. The following League Table (published on 20th May), showed just how strong Muirkirk's challenge had been:—

SOUTH SECTION

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Ptds.
Muirkirk	25	17	7	1	85	53	35
Lugar	23	16	5	2	69	36	34
Darvel	25	15	6	4	64	41	34
Craigmark	24	15	7	3	54	33	31
Cumnock	21	13	5	3	62	31	29
Talbot	25	13	10	2	63	48	28
Whitlatts	26	8	11	7	47	55	23
Maybole	21	8	8	4	42	45	22
Kello R.	23	10	10	3	60	61	21
Glens	26	7	12	7	44	54	21
Riccarton	26	8	15	3	52	101	19
Annbank	19	6	9	4	30	38	15
Hurlford	24	5	16	3	42	59	13
Ayr Newt.	26	3	20	3	32	96	9

MUIRKIRK GALA DAY, 1952



Obituary

Mr ROBERT K. WILSON

A well-known and highly respected personality, Mr R. K. Wilson, passed away at 26 Wellwood Avenue. A native of Douglas, Mr Wilson came to Muirkirk in 1900 as foreman joiner to Mr John Wood, joiner, and for the past 42 years he had been foreman joiner at the Works under Wm. Baird & Co., Baird & Dalmellington, and the N.C.B. He was a member of the Co-operative Board for over 30 years, and for the past three years held the position of President, having been Vice-President for 21 years. He was a keen member of both the Bowling Club and the Masonic Lodge. He was 72 years of age, and leaves a widow and three sons.

SIR HARRY LAUDER

A deep sense of regret was felt by us all on learning of the passing of Sir Harry Lauder at his Strathaven home in February. Apart from the affection we hold for his immortal songs, we, too, have had the pleasure of seeing and hearing the "grand old minstel" perform in our own village. He visited the old folks' re-union in the Ironworks Institute a number of years ago.

MR HARRY CALDWELL

A personality well known locally for the past thirty years, Mr Harry Caldwell, died suddenly at Sauchrie, Smallburn, on Friday morning (17th November) at the age of 81 years. He came to Muirkirk as a lessee of the old Pavilion Picture House in Smallburn, and previously was well known in Glasgow and the provinces as George Arnott, a professional comedian of no mean ability. His services were often called upon for local concerts, and the professional touch was always there. He had a keen sense of humour and a ready wit for all occasions, and his sallies, stories, and that pawky smile will be missed by many Muirkirk folks.

TELEPHONE

The new automatic telephone exchange to the rear of Victoria Buildings came into operation in November, and means that all local numbers will now have the figure 2 prefixed, so that numbers now consist of three figures instead of two.

ANGLING

Muirkirk Angling Association's June competition attracted 21 rods, and a remarkable catch of 68 lbs. 6¾ ozs. was weighed in. The result was:—

- 1st—T. Beck (J), 12 lbs 9½ ozs.
- 2nd—T. Beck (D), 9 lbs. 12 ozs.
- 3rd—John De Sykes, 9 lbs. 9 ozs.
- 4th—Hugh Hill, 6 lbs. 13¾ ozs.
- 5th—D. Beck (D), 6 lbs. 4½ ozs.

THE TOON STORE CLOCK

The familiar time-piece above the door on the Co-operative premises at Main Street has served the public faithfully for a great many years, but unfortunately has been out of action for some time past. This has now been rectified by replacing it with a brand new electric clock, with an illuminated face, and it started ticking on 17th July. We understand that the original clock, which was second-hand, was erected in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Year.

MINING DISASTER (14th Sept. Issue)

Since the news of the tremendous subsidence and inrush of mud and water last Thursday at Knockshinnoch Castle Colliery, New Cumnock, trapping 129 miners underground, our thoughts, fears, and hopes have been centred on the trapped men, their anxious relatives waiting above, and the brave workers striving to effect a rescue. The success of the rescue operations, in which our local team has played its part, is already mining history, and it is described as the greatest rescue feat ever in the coalfields. To learn that 116 men had been brought from the depths through deadly gases after three nights and two days and restored to their loved ones brought us a great surge of relief and thankfulness, but, alas, there was still a heavy price to pay. Hope was abandoned for 13 men separated from the main body of workers, and it is to the families and relatives of these men that our heartfelt sympathy goes out at this time.

In November Muirkirk Ornithological Society staged their first annual show since before the war. It was a great success with 300 visitors and 650 exhibits on show.

AIRDSMILL



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

First Year	Paper
Second Year	Cotton
Third Year	Leather
Fourth Year	Fruit
Fifth Year	Wooden
Sixth Year	Iron
Seventh Year	Copper
Eighth Year	Pottery
Ninth Year	Willow
Tenth Year	Tin
Eleventh Year	Steel
Twelfth Year	Silk
Thirteenth Year	Lace
Fourteenth Year	Ivory
Fifteenth Year	Crystal
Twentieth Year	China
Twenty-Fifth Year	Silver
Thirtieth Year	Pearl
Thirty-Fifth Year	Coral
Fortieth Year	Ruby
Forty-Fifth	Sapphire
Fiftieth Year	Golden
Fifty-Fifth Year	Emerald
Sixtieth Year	Diamond

ADDER KILLED

There was quite a stir in Muirkirk Junior Secondary School on Monday (8th May) when J. Bradford brought in a 22-inch adder to add to the School's collection of natural exhibits. Jumping a burn in swampy ground behind Middlefield Law, the boys were surprised to find a coiled snake in front of them. The reptile itself was no less surprised, and immediately began hissing and springing in the boys' direction. David Bradford threw a knife as the adder was making off, and was successful in pinning it to the ground. When the snake had writhed its last the lads brought their trophy home in a lemonade bottle. The adder, or viper, as it is commonly called, is distinguished from the more common and larger grass snake by the very distinct black V-shaped mark on its head. Unlike the grass snake, which is completely harmless, the adder can inflict a poisonous bite. Both of these types of British reptiles are seldom seen, and difficult to catch.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1950

BIRTHS

- BARR.—At Ayr on 25th January to Mr and Mrs Sydney Barr (Nan Sinclair); a daughter.
- ROSS.—At Glasgow on 28th March to Mr and Mrs John Ross (Jessie Mansfield); a daughter.
- McMURTRIE.—At Irvine on 7th April to Mr and Mrs John McMurtrie (Jenny McGillivray); a son.
- BARRIE.—At Kames Row on 29th April to Mr and Mrs John Barrie; a son.
- DOUGLAS.—At Kilmarnock on 17th May, to Mr and Mrs William Douglas (Helen Kirkwood); a son.
- BORTHWICK.—At Irvine on 9th July to Mr and Mrs Walter Borthwick; a daughter.
- SMITH.—At Irvine on 6th July to Mr and Mrs James Smith; a son.
- RUSSELL.—At Irvine on 16th July to Mr and Mrs James Russell (Isobel Birrell); a son.
- HANSON.—At Birmingham on 31st August to Mr and Mrs J. Hansen (Rita Wilson); a son.
- McCARTNEY.—In Canada on 27th September to Mr and Mrs James McCartney (Mildred Hayen); a son.
- JAMIESON.—At Bankend Farm on 6th November to Mr and Mrs William Jamieson; a son.
- PALMER.—At Irvine on 3rd November to Mr and Mrs Thomas Palmer (Marion Gray); a daughter.
- McGARVA.—At Irvine on 12th december to Mr and Mrs James McGarva (Joan Borthwick); a son.

MARRIAGES

- JAS. McGARVA to JOAN BORTHWICK on 20th January.
- JOHN McMEEKIN to JEAN DENNISTON on 16th Feb.
- JAMES GIBSON to MARIE SPEIRS on 11th March.
- THOS MURRAY to JANET BLACKWOOD on 17th March.

KAMESHILL HOUSE



MARRIAGES (Continued)

JAMES DEMPSTER to SARAH McCORIE on 24th March.
 GEORGE DEMPSTER to ELIZABETH BALDRICK on 23rd March.
 JOHN MARSHALL to MAY FRIAR on 4th April.
 ROBERT DIRAM to JANE THOMSON on 14th June.
 JAMES LIGGETT to MARY SAMSON on 1st July.
 THOMAS WEIR to ISOBELLA DEMPSTER on 7th July.
 GEORGE BRADFORD to ALICE GILCHRIST on 8th July.
 JOHN SAMSON to ELIZABETH DELDAY on 20th July
 GEORGE WYLLIE to KATHLEEN MURPHY on 15th July
 ALFRED FABER to MARY McSKIMMING on 19th August.
 THOMAS HILL to MARY MILLER on 1st September.
 WILLIAM SAMSON to MURIEL ASPLAND on 2nd Sept.
 HUGH HILL to MARY McKAY on 3rd November.
 JOHN BRADFORD to MARY CARSON on 29th December

DEATHS

CLARK.—At Ayr on 4th January, James Clark, aged 76 years (of 6 Kirkgreen).
 GOLDIE.—At Mossend, Main Street, on 3rd January, Janet Mooney.
 FINDLAY.—At Ballochmyle on 20th January, Jean Arthur, of Linkieburn House.
 WALLACE.—At Ballochmyle on 21st January, Mary Lockhart, aged 67 years (of Kerr's Buildings, Glenbuck).
 CROSBIE.—At 127 Main Street on 12th February, John Crosbie (late of Glenbuck), aged 69 years.
 RODGER.—At Dundee on 7th February, Colonel John Rodger (son of Mr Rodger, Schoolmaster, Glenbuck).
 McCALL.—At Northumberland on 17th February, George McCall, aged 73 years (late of Muirkirk).
 BROWN.—At 28 Garronhill on 13th March, Alex. Brown, aged 72 years.
 CAMERON.—At 15 Millers Road on 8th March, John Cameron, aged 86 years.
 HAZLE.—At Slagview, Smallburn, on 7th March, Helen McGillivray.
 McCANN.—At 9 Middlefield Drive on 14th March, John McCann, aged 71 years.
 HARVEY.—At Derby on 12th March, Myra Rowe, aged 53 years. Interred at Muirkirk
 MURDOCH.—At Holmhead, Cumnock, on 21st March, Jean McCall, aged 38 years (of 12 Victoria Buildings).
 GRAHAM.—At The Lodge, Glenbuck, on 26th March, Margaret Brown,
 ADAMS.—At 43 New Terrace on 1st April, Andrew Adams, aged 75 years.
 IRVINE.—At Ballochmyle on 18th April, Mary McKay, of 54 Kames Row.
 GILFILLAN.—At Law Hospital on 26th April, David Gilfillan, aged 67 years.

LOCKHART.—At Manse Lane on 5th May, Jane Montgomery, aged 42 years.
 WALLACE.—At Bankend Cottage, Cumnock, on 8th May, Agnes Anderson (late of the Castle, Glenbuck).
 ADAIR.—At Edinburgh on 14th May, Marion Hamilton.
 SCOTT.—At Heathfield, Ayr, on 12th May, Mary Scott, aged 75 years.
 SMITH.—At Ballochmyle on 10th June, Mary Murray, aged 70 years (of 9 Stitt Place).
 FULTON.—At Ayr on 13th June, Alexander Fulton.
 McDONALD.—In Canada on 20th June, William Nisbet, late of Co-operative Buildings, Muirkirk.
 HILL.—At Ballochmyle on 1st July, Robert Hill aged 55 years (of 50 Springhill Terrace).
 LOGIE.—At 4 Middlefield Drive on 3rd July, William Logie, aged 88 years.
 McKIE.—At Cambuslang on 19th July, Mary Callan, aged 65 years.
 BONE.—At Stoke-on-Trent on 29th July, James Bone, aged 51 years.
 YOUNG.—At Ballochmyle on 4th August, Mary Bowie (of Janetta, Main Street, Muirkirk).
 YULE.—At Co-operative Buildings, Glenbuck, on 15th August, Robert Yule, aged 90 years.
 MASTERTON.—At 7 Glasgow Road on 24th August, Agnes Lively, aged 66 years.
 O'BRIEN.—At 32 New Terrace on 7th September, James O'Brien, aged 72 years.
 COOK.—At 43 Glasgow Road on 17th September, Catherine Cook.
 THOMSON.—At Troon on 29th September, Mary Murray, aged 63 years.
 HUNTER.—At Ballochmyle on 28th October, Thomas Hunter, aged 61 years.
 HUGHES.—At Ballochmyle on 1st November, Michael Hughes.
 CALDWELL.—At Sauchrie, Smallburn, Muirkirk, on 17th November, Harry Caldwell, aged 81 years.
 LEITCH.—At Hurlford on 10th November, Elizabeth Anderson (of 68 The Square, Muirkirk)
 BROWN.—At Holmhead, Cumnock, on 10th December, William Brown, aged 54 years (of Grasshill Row, Glenbuck).
 LOCHRIE.—At Main Street, Muirkirk, on 21st December, Elizabeth Mitchell.
 ANDERSON.—At 5 Bridge Street on 26th December, Agnes Samson, aged 77 years.
 HUNTER.—At Midlothian on 27th December, Jessie Wilson, aged 24 years (of 1 Smallburn, Muirkirk).

CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR

(1951)

THE VILLAGE CHANGES

For almost half a century Muirkirk had changed comparatively little over the years, and it is rather ironic that in the fifties when great improvements were being made with new houses being built and families relocated that this in reality was to be the start of a steady decline in the population of Muirkirk. It was at this time that almost the entire village of Glenbuck was rehoused at the Smallburn Scheme—it was the end for Glenbuck, but little did the villagers of Muirkirk know that it was also the beginning of a gradual decline of their own village.

The entire population of Southside Rows were rehoused at Smallburn, but just as the village had been split in two between the Southside and “The Toon,” so it was to be again, this time between “The Scheme” and “The Toon.” The lack of foresight on the part of the planning authorities was unbelievable.

The Rows at Southside were all demolished and the site allowed to be taken over by the surrounding moorland. And in the village properties were demolished willy-nilly, including some fine red sand-stone buildings, and the sites left vacant—oh, yes, Muirkirk would never be the same again. At time of writing (1997) the same thing appears to be happening again and it would seem that we are heading for another Glenbuck!

Closing of Railway

In September, 1951, a real body blow for the village was the closing of the Ayr-Muirkirk Railway Passenger Service, which also affected Stations at Auchincruive, Annbank, Trabboch, Drongan, Ochiltree, Skares, Cumnock, and Cronberry.

Life in the village did go on regardless, with plenty to occupy the minds of the locals. Muirkirk still boasted two cinemas—The Regal and the Picture House—with shows seven nights a week including two houses on Saturday night and a matinee on Friday.

The Property Market

The uncertainty about the future was reflected in the local property market, and in the Issue of 4th January, we quote:—The property consisting of three dwelling-houses with a field behind in Main Street, which belonged to the late Miss Annie Blyth, was re-exposed for sale by auction in the Masonic Hall on Wednesday of last week at the reduced upset price of £450, but was unsold. At an after-sales talk offers were invited, but nothing concrete resulted, except that the property remained unsold. It was revealed that the “heid anes” were not desponded, and said they would be back again, and what the next upset price will be is a matter of conjecture. Three houses at £150 each does not seem to be a ransom, but the bait is either not taking, or the money is not so plentiful. At the same time, several properties in the village have lately changed hands privately, and others are in the market.

And from the 15th February Issue:—

We understand the property in Main Street, with field behind, has now been disposed of privately to Mr Simon Smith.

The property in question was situated roughly opposite the Warden's House at the Sheltered Houses in Main Street (the middle of the Temperance Hall Brae!).

Many properties were bought by the local authority for nominal sums and subsequently demolished, thereby altering the look of the town.

SEEN AND HEARD

Stirling & Nisbet announced they had taken over the Fruit & Confectionery Business at 11 Furnace Road, until recently carried on by Mr A. Jeffrey.

Mr Thomas McCartney, manager at Muirkirk Gas Works since 1942, was transferred to a similar appointment at Stevenston. Mr John S. Cornock, Kilmarnock, was appointed in his place.

The Welcome Cafe in Main Street was occupied by Mr R. H. Brown, while the Derby Cafe in Glasgow Road was managed by Mr J. Cannon.

Mr James Brown was appointed J.P.

The N.C.B. Mining Training School at Dungavel was opened in February. This was of course the former residence of the Duke of Hamilton.

Muirkirk felt the effects of the big blizzard in February, and a party of 30 theatre-goers had to spend the night at Dungavel after abandoning their bus in deep snow.

County Councillor Mr George M. Bain was the principal speaker at Glenbuck Old Folks' Re-Union.

Sammy Cox, Rangers F.C. and Scotland, was the inspecting officer at the B.B. Display in May.

Miss Margaret Johnstone was Muirkirk's representative at the Coal Queen competition at the Miners' Gala at Edinburgh.

Production at the Bankend Open Cast Coal mining site ceased in June, and workers at the screening plant at Wellwood Disposal Centre were all paid off at the same time.

John Gardiner was the Muirkirk School Sports champion; while the girls' championship was shared by Janette Girdwood and Alice Guthrie.

In September Muirkirk Fire Service were in receipt of a new fire tender.

The shoemaking business carried on by Thomas M. J. Stewart at 39 Main Street, closed in August.

Masons Arms Hotel opened a new hall in September.

In a list of Ayrshire wills published was that of Miss Mary Reid Dickson, Wellwood Street, who left £4,735.

In November Mr James Pringle took over the gent.'s hair-dressing business previously carried on by Mr John H. Preston.

MINING FATALITY

On 14th November there was a fatal accident at Kames Colliery No. 2, Muirkirk, when a fall at the coal face trapped two workers. One of the men, William Towle (53), an overman, sustained multiple injuries which proved fatal, and the other, George Davidson, stripper, residing at 9 Miller Road, escaped with bruises and shock. The deceased man lived with his wife and family at 3 Ironworks Cottages, Muirkirk.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1950

	1950	1949
Births	40	58
Marriages	21	38
Deaths	26	34

WHO'S WHO IN 1951**MUIRKIRK ANGLING ASSOCIATION**

Hon. President Mr James G. Beresford
 President Mr R. J. Bradford
 Vice-President Mr A. Dempster
 Secretary Mr James Marshall
 Treasurer Mr R. K. Wilson

MUIRKIRK GOLF CLUB

President Mr Norman McDougall
 Vice-President Mr William J. Hadden
 Secretary Mr Robert Hodge
 Treasurer Mr James Ford.

MUIRKIRK ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Hon. President Mr William S. Smith
 President Mr James D. McPate
 Vice-Presidents Messrs James Girdwood
 John Taylor, Alex. V. Hazle, William Lochrie
 Secretary Mr James McGarva
 Treasurer Mr John Samson
 Auditor Mr John Taylor

**CLOSING OF AYR-MUIRKIRK RAILWAY
PASSENGER SERVICE**

British Railways (Scottish Division) announced that on and after 10th September, 1951, the passenger train service will be withdrawn from the Ayr-Muirkirk line, the stations involved being Auchincruive, Annbank, Trabboch, Drongan, Ochiltree, Skares, Cumnock and Cronberry.

Passengers for places previously serviced on the Ayr-Muirkirk Branch will be booked to Ayr or Muirkirk, from which points bus services are available.

Passenger train parcels and miscellaneous traffic will continue to be dealt with at the stations, and will be conveyed by road motor to connect with the passenger train service.

There will be no alterations in the existing freight train traffic arrangements.

TELEVISION ARRIVES IN MUIRKIRK

Muirkirk may be isolated in many respects, but it would appear that we hold quite an advantage in television reception. Mr Alex. Little, local radio engineer, has been receiving good pictures on two different sets during the month of October, and the trade experts are sitting up and taking notice, in fact he has had telephone enquiries from practically all over Scotland. Last night I witnessed pictures from Holme Moss Station, Huddersfield, 180 miles away (air line), which is 130 miles beyond the 50-mile limit for reception guaranteed by the BBC. The pictures were bright and clear on both sets used, and the surprising feature is that Dumfries is probably the most northerly point from the station where anything like reception has been obtained so far. The trade experts are showing a very keen interest, and quite a number have already visited Muirkirk to see the results for themselves. Mr Little tells me that when the Scottish station opens next February, the results locally should be absolutely perfect.

FARM FIRE

Three calves perished in a fire at Burnfoot Farm on 24th February, and the stable, barn, implement house, and calf house, all contained within one building, were destroyed. The owner, Mr Frank McKerrow, and the other residents of the farm were all out when Mr McKerrow's invalid brother, John, discovered the outbreak. He was unable to summon assistance, but managed to liberate two horses and three calves. When the other occupants arrived home about midnight the Fire Brigade was called out and the fire was confined to one building.

In May, Mr John McKerrow, who is 65, and is so crippled that he walks with two sticks, was presented with the highest award that the Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals can bestow—the Silver Medal for humanity to animals.

LICENSING COURT

At Ayr District Licensing Court an appeal was made by 17 licence-holders in Monkton, Dalrymple, Dalmellington, Tarbolton, Stair, and Coylton for the 9 o'clock closing time to be extended to 9.30 p.m. in winter and 10 p.m. in summer, was opposed by licence-holders in Muirkirk, Joppa, Ochiltree, Cumnock, and New Cumnock, for whom an agent stated that there was no demand for later closing, as the hard-working people of South Ayrshire had to get up early in the morning, and did not require any extension of hours. The usual hours were decided upon. The only change in the district was the granting of the licence for the Royal Arms, Glenbuck, to Mr A. V. Hazle, 8 Council Houses, Glenbuck.

BURNS RELIC

“For over 100 years an inkwell made from a pony's hoof lay in a London House. Where it came from no one knew, except it had ‘something to do with Robert Burns.’ But the brass lid was polished smooth. The writing on it had almost disappeared. Two weeks ago a Scot visited the house, and saw the inkwell. He thought at once of Robert Burns, the poet. So he sent the inkwell to Rev. Harold Cockburn, Minister of St. Michael's, Dumfries, to see if he could identify it. That's why, on Friday night, Mr Cockburn stood up at the Burns meeting in Dumfries and announced the homecoming of a Burns relic ‘lost’ for more than a century. For he had identified the inkwell as a gift made by Rabbie to his farmer friend, John Lapraik, in 1793. He was even able to trace the faint signature on the smooth brass lid where the poet had scratched ‘Robert Burns’ with a steel pen. The inkwell will remain at St. Michael's, where Burns lies.”

This report in a Sunday newspaper is of special interest to Muirkirk, for of course John Lapraik, Rabbie's farmer friend, lived in our district.

LICENSING COURT

The licence for the Black Bull Hotel was transferred to Mr John Rodger, West Linton, and that of the Crown Bar to Mr Daniel Malcolm, Kilmarnock. Mr Gregor Smith, who is vacating the Black Bull was granted a licence for the Horseshoe Bar, Darvel.

Obituaries**THE LATE MR JOHN DEVINE**

A well-known and highly respected personality, Mr John Devine, passed away at his home at Albert Cottages on 16th March, after having taken a seizure earlier in the week.

Mr Devine, who was 74 years of age, was for many years checkweighman at Kennox Colliery, Glespin, but retired from work a number of years ago.

His musical activities in our Parish and around will be well known to all. He was organist and choirmaster at Wellwood Church, formerly the Free Church, for over thirty years, and he was also an Elder of the Kirk. A patient and painstaking teacher, Mr Devine coached his juvenile and adult choirs faithfully and well over this long period, and apart from the choir practices, many, like the writer, will always remember his help and consideration for the young soloist, with many an evening to practice in his own home, where Mrs devine played her part in helping on the good work. In addition to his choirs, Mr Devine conducted for a number of years the Free Kirk Orchestra of happy memory, and the combined orchestral and choral concerts which were a feature of our winter activities at that time were a tribute to his enthusiasm and untiring efforts. He produced many children's operettas and kinderspiels with considerable success, and was always ready to help with concerts over the area when called upon.

He had carried on as organist and choirmaster at Muirkirk Parish Church until only a fortnight ago, and indeed, was preparing a special musical service for Easter when he took ill.

Mr Devine is survived by his wife and son, William.

THE LATE MR JOHN JOHNSTONE

Another link with old Muirkirk was severed on 22nd March by the passing of Mr John Johnstone at the age of 80 years, at his home at Furnace Road.

Losing a foot in a works accident in Lanarkshire early in life, Mr Johnstone turned to photography and music as a means of livelihood, and later his photographic studio became the premises of the newsagents and stationer's business he carried on for many years and now conducted by his brother, Mr Tom Johnstone. He was interested in many local organisations over a long number of years, and was a director of Muirkirk Gas Coy.



It will be for his musical activities, however, that Mr Johnstone will best be remembered. Accomplished on a variety of instruments, as a young man he was a member of local and district musical combinations, and later, as a well-known teacher of piano and organ,

strings, woodwind, and brass, many local musicians came under his wing.

Older readers will recall with considerable pleasure his successful efforts as conductor of Muirkirk Amateur Orchestra, a talented and well-rehearsed combination which gave much pleasure to district audiences, while his achievements as musical director of Muirkirk Amateur Minstrels contributed in no small measure to the great success of these old-time Muirkirk entertainers. In addition, he was teacher and conductor of Muirkirk Parish Silver Band for the long period of 26 years, and many of our bandsmen had their first "blaw" under his firm but helpful guidance. Alas, these worthwhile organisations for which he worked so hard have vanished with the passing of the years.

A bachelor, Mr Johnstone, who had been in failing health for some time, resided with his sister, Miss Janet Johnstone, Furnace Road.

THE LATE MR MALCOLM ROSS

It is with regret that we learn of the death of a well-known Muirkirk man, Mr Malcolm Ross, on 12th April, after having taken ill only a few days earlier. Mr Ross spent most of his career looking after the entertainment needs of the district, and was manager at the Picture House and then the old Pavilion, Muirkirk, before leaving over twenty years ago to take up a similar appointment at Auchinleck, and right up till the time of his death he looked after Mr Morton's interests both at Auchinleck and Cumnock Picture Houses. Mr Ross, who resided in Sorn, is survived by his wife and one son.

THE LATE MR WILLIAM BLACKWOOD

One of our oldest residents and best-known tradesman, Mr William Blackwood, joiner and undertaker, passed away at his home at Nessville, Wellwood Street, on 19th September. Mr Blackwood was in his 88th year.

A native of Muirkirk, Mr Blackwood spent some of his boyhood years in Glasgow before returning at the age of 14 to take up work in his father's firm, now in existence for well over 100 years, and now in the fourth generation of the Blackwoods. The firm name was changed to W. Blackwood in 1925, and to W. Blackwood & Son in 1937, when Mr William Blackwood, jr., took over. Mr Blackwood, sen., carried on working however, and it was only since the beginning of this year that he was forced to give up. He was in bed only a few weeks before the end.

Mr Blackwood, who had a long connection with the old United Free Church, where he was an elder and Sunday School teacher, will probably be best remembered for his services to the community as an undertaker, and over his long span he attended to our funeral arrangements with great care and reverence.

He was predeceased by his wife almost 27 years ago, and leaves an only son, William, to whom we extend our sympathy at this time.

IRONWORKS INSTUTE
FREE LIBRARY
OPENS TUESDAY

THE LATE MR JAMES BELL

Another well known personality was lost to the village with the passing of Mr James Bell at his home in Glasgow Road in May. Seventy-four years of age, Jimmy was a well-known and respected personality in this airt of Ayrshire. He was President of the Baird Institute up till the time of his death, and formerly he had long associations with other local organisations. He was treasurer of the Miners' Union local branch for many years, and also had a long connection with Muirkirk Bowling Club in a similar capacity. His skill on the green also gained him the local Championship on several occasions. The flag at the Clubhouse was flown at half-mast to mark the passing of this popular sportsman.

THE LATE MR JOHN H. PRESTON

Muirkirkers in every corner of the globe will learn with regret of the passing of Mr John H. Preston, J.P., at his home on 12th July, after an illness of a few weeks. "Preston the Barber" was one of the best-known local figures over almost half a century, and during this long period he gained the esteem and respect of succeeding generations of Muirkirk folks. He was 68 years of age.

A native of Kilmaurs, Mr Preston came to Muirkirk 47 years ago to start a business as a gent.'s hairdresser, and from his advent he took a keen interest in the affairs of the village. He was for several terms a Parish Councillor, and perhaps no one in the Parish did more for voluntary recruiting during the 1914-18 War, when he also served in the forces for several years himself. When the war ended he soon identified himself with efforts to get justice for sufferers in the fight, and it was mainly through his efforts that a series of very successful local carnivals was instituted. During the last war he was a member of the local Observer Corps and was Head Observer when the local post was instituted.



Musically inclined, as a younger man he could sing a good song (humorous preferred), and tell a good story, and he played the cello in the local Amateur Orchestra. He was also a corner man in Muirkirk Amateur Minstrels. In his premises at Main Street over the years many a knotty problem was threshed out, from local tittle-tattle to the affairs of the Realm.

His activities for local interests and associations were many and varied. From being Captain of the local branch of the Comrades of the Great War, he became President of Muirkirk Branch of the British Legion, and his work for this cause will be long remembered throughout the county. He was also a

member of the Pensions Committee. For most of his sojourn in Muirkirk Mr Preston was secretary of Muirkirk Merchants' Association, a position he held up till the time of his death. He was also a member of the Muirkirk and Glenbuck Ambulance Committee. A contributor to our columns over many years, his reports of Legion and Ambulance meetings were faithfully and regularly received up till the time of his illness.

As a Justice of the Peace his many services to local folks will possibly be fully realised by only the few.

He was an elder of the Kirk, and an ardent Freemason. Mr Preston had a connection of 42 years with the Craft locally. He was a Past Master of Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, Past Z of Muirkirk Royal Arch Chapter, and as treasurer to the Chapter for 26 years his long and faithful services were suitably recognised quite recently. His services for degree and installation ceremonies were often in demand, and were freely given in local and neighbouring lodges.

Another facet on the qualities of the man was his service to the sick and aged. For many years he devoted his half-day on a Wednesday to visiting in their own homes those requiring his services who were unable to visit his premises. This was a gesture greatly appreciated in our district. On the walls of his shop he had a fine collection of old photographs of local scenes and inhabitants over the years, and it was a pleasure to hear him recalling worthies and incidents of the past.

The funeral took place to Muirkirk Cemetery on Saturday, where the cortege was met by a company fully representative of his many associations. Members of the British Legion acted as pall-bearers, and after the remains had been lowered to their last resting place, the Legionnaires paid their last respects to an old comrade by dropping poppies in the open grave. The service was conducted by the Rev. George Robertson, M.A.

Yes, Muirkirk will miss the dapper figure of John H. Preston, and to Mrs Preston and the family of three sons and one daughter we would express our sincere sympathy at this time.

FOOTBALL (Season 195-51)

Another up and down season for Muirkirk Juniors, when a very indifferent start to their League programme put paid to a championship challenge. They lost 2-1 to Bridgeton Waverley in the 2nd round of the Scottish Cup. The team was:—Rainey; Mair, Dickson; King, Smith, Connell; Hanlon, Telfer, Burns, Daly, McAllister.

The team played better later in the season, but Annbank beat them in the semi-final of the Western League Cup at Somerset Park, and in the semi-final of the Vernon Trophy Muirkirk went down 5-4 to Cumnock at Auchinleck.

GENERAL ELECTION

SOUTH AYRSHIRE RESULT

Emrys Hughes (Labour)	22,576
Derek M. H. Smith (Conservative)	14,740
	Labour Majority 7,836
At the last election the Labour majority was 7,567	

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1951**BIRTHS**

- TAYLOR.—At Irvine on 15th February to Mr and Mrs John Taylor; a daughter.
- THOMSON.—At Irvine on 18th February, to Mr and Mrs John Thomson; a son.
- LOGGIE.—At Thornyflat on 6th March to Mr and Mrs James Loggie; a daughter.
- SHARPE.—At Kilmarnock on 8th March to Mr and Mrs Cecil Sharpe; a daughter.,
- McCALL.—At Renfrew on 14th March to Mr and Mrs John McCall; a daughter.
- DEMPSTER.—At Irvine on 18th March to Mr and Mrs J. Dempster; a son.
- GRANT.—In South Africa on 15th March to Mr and Mrs T. Grant; a son.
- McCOLL.—At Edinburgh on 25th March to Mr and Mrs J. McColl; a daughter.
- STEELE.—At Gainsborough on 26th March to Mr and Mrs J. Steele; a daughter.
- TAYLOR.—At Irvine on 22nd April to Mr and Mrs George Taylor; a son.
- ANDERSON.—At Irvine on 29th April to Mr and Mrs William Anderson; a daughter.
- ROSS.—At Irvine on 7th May to Mr and Mrs A. Ross; a son.
- ROBERTS.—At Hamilton on 11th June to Mr and Mrs Wilfred Roberts; a son.
- RUSSELL.—At Irvine on 17th June to Mr and Mrs Nelson Russel; a son.
- KEAN.—At Glasgow on 7th August to Mr and Mrs John Kean; a son.
- HAUGH.—At Stirling on 12th September to Mr and Mrs W. Haugh; a son.
- BARRIE.—In New Zealand on 22nd September to Mr and Mrs William Barrie; a son.
- SHACKLETON.—In South Africa to Mr and Mrs S. Shackleton; a son.
- NICOLL.—At Broughty Ferry on 2nd October to Mr and Mrs G. Nicoll; a daughter
- WYPER.—At Irvine on 20th December to Mr and Mrs Chris. Wyper; a son

MARRIAGES

- CHAS. McMANUS to MARY BOLAND on 3rd February.
- DAVID WILSON to ELLEN GARDINER on 2nd February.
- JOHN GOLDIE to ESMEE ROWAN on 17th february.
- JAMES GILCHRIST to MARGARET RAE on 9th March.
- ROBERT BURNS to GRACE SAMSON on 17th March.
- ROBERT BRADFORD to JEAN MARSHALL on 24th March.
- DAVID ROBERTSON to MARY McLAUGHLAN on 23rd March.

- JAMES WILSON to IRIS CLARK on 23rd March.
- JOHN McCULLOCH to MARY GILFILLAN on 30th March.
- JOHN WALLACE to DOROTHY HADDEN on 31st March.
- ALEXANDER HILL to ANNIE NEILSON on 2nd June.
- WILLIAM CALLAN to MARGARET BLACKWOOD on 1st June.
- ARCHIBALD FINDLAY to JANET COOK on 15th June.
- THOMAS SMITH to JEAN WOODS on 28th June.
- H. STRATFIRD to BARBARA BRADFORD on 30th June.
- JOHN BROTTON to MARY MORRISON on 14th July.
- RONALD THOMSON to JUNE HUNTER on 18th August.
- JOHN MURPHY to JANET SMITH on 21st September.
- GILBERT FERGUSON to MARI-LUISE STOERING on 7th September.
- JAMES MENZIES to EUNICE HAY on 29th September.
- ANDREW MONTGOMERY to ANNIE DUNSMORE on 28th September.
- GEORGE STEVEN to SHEILA BURNS on 3rd November.
- ROBERT MUNCIE to JEAN McMILLAN on 16th November.
- JOHN LAIDLAW to AGNES LOVE on on 14th December.
- WILLIAM SMITH to ELIZABETH PATERSON on 21st December.
- THOMAS BONE to EDITH SNAPE on 22nd December.
- ROBERT BRADFORD to MARY McSKIMMING on 28th December,
- ANDREW FLEMING to MARY MUIRHEAD on 29th December.
- JACK BRADFORD to JEAN MARSHALL.
- GIBBY McMILLAN to ISOBEL BULLOCH.

DEATHS

- DAVIDSON—At Co-operative Buildings, Glenbuck, on 8th January, Willaim Davidson, aged 37 years.
- WALLACE.—At 1 Council Houses, Glenbuck, on 5th January, Robert Wallace, aged 83 years.
- MITCHELL.—In U.S.A. on 11th January, Archie Mitchell.
- ROBERTSON.—At 7 Kames Row on 13th January, James Robertson, aged 56 years.
- CAMERON.—At Motherwell on 8th January, James Cameron (late of Glenbuck).
- FERGUSON.—At Glasgow on 19th January, Samuel Ferguson, aged 52 years.
- TAIT.—At Cowdenbeath on 20th December, 1950, Robert Tait, aged 64 years.
- GOURLAY.—In New York on 20th January, Helen Davidson (late of Bridge Street).
- WILLIAMSON.—At Kames Manse on 24th February, George Williamson, aged 80 years.
- BLYTH.—At Hairmyres on 4th March, Grace Jack, aged 71 .

DEATHS (Continued)

McLARTY.—At Airdsgreen Farm on 1st March, David McLarty, aged 26 years.

BECK.—At 41 Glasgow Road, on 4th March, John Beck, aged 73 years.

McDONALD.—At Lanark on 4th March, Annie Blyth.

MURDOCH.—At Strathaven on 12th March, Annie Murdoch.

DEVINE.—At Albert Cottages on 16th March, John Devine, aged 74 years.

JOHNSTONE.—At 5 Furnace Road on 22nd March, John Johnstone, aged 80 years.

LAWSON.—At Cumnock on 3rd April, Helen Moffat, aged 90 years.

SLOAN.—At Glasgow on 22nd March, Samuel Sloan, aged 71 years.

HIGGINS.—At 3 Stitt Place on 12th April, James Higgins, aged 84 years.

ROSS.—At Ballochmyle on 12th April, Malcolm Ross, aged 57 years.

McWHIRTER.—At Larkhall on 19th April, Matthew McWhirter, aged 77 years.

BELL.—At 41 Glasgow Road on 4th May, James Bell, aged 74 years.

LESLIE.—At Ballochmyle on 29th April, Margaret Leslie, aged 18 years.

BARCLAY.—At 17 Midhouse Row on 9th May, William Barclay, aged 74 years.

ROSS.—At Leeds on 7th May, Margaret Ross, aged 93 years.

HASTIE.—At 7 Council Houses, Glenbuck, on 19th May, Jeannie McNeill.

JANKIEWICZ.—On 20th May, Eliz. Strickland, aged 24 .

LOCKHART.—At Manse Lane on 28th May, George Lockhart, aged 50 years.

McGLADRIE.—At Stettler Hospital on 28th April, John McGladrie, aged 69 years.

SAMSON.—At 47 Glasgow Road on 20th May, Isabella Henderson, aged 80 years.

WILSON.—At Douglas Place on 21st May, Elizabeth Wilson, aged 81 years.

WILSON.—At Ballochmyle on 18th June, Ethel Whan.

DAVIDSON.—In Melbourne on 23rd June, Kitty Kerr.

HAMILTON.—At Glasgow on 21st June, Annie Sloan.

KNOX.—On 29th June, Thomas Knox, aged 74 years.

PRESTON.—At 80 Main Street on 12th July, John H. Preston (Barber), aged 68 years.

BRADSLEY.—At London on 11th July, Jean Higgins, aged 37 years.

SMITH.—At Ballochmyle on 17th July, Matilda Mulligan, aged 47 years.

SMITH.—At 52 Colthart Drive on 23rd July, Jane Clark, aged 84 years.

GRAY.—At 142 Main Street on 31st July, Jean Tait, aged 61 years.

BARRIE.—At Kirkgreen on 8th August, Elizabeth Kerr, aged 71 years.

WILSON.—At Kilmarnock on 2nd August, Margaret Wilson.

DAVIDSON.—At 14 Victoria Buildings on 13th August, Mary Wallace, aged 65 years.

GILFILLAN.—At Ballochmyle on 25th August, William Gilfillan, aged 66 years.

LOGGIE.—At Main Street on 27th August, Annie Brown, aged 67 years.

WARDEN.—At Irvine on 29th August, Joan Warden, aged 1 year 11 months

BONE.—At Ayr on 10th September, Helen Lencellors, aged 61 years.

BLACKWOOD.—At Nessville, Wellwood Street, on 19th September, William Blackwood, aged 88 years.

GRAHAM.—At Stoke-on-Trent on 8th September, Agnes Bone, aged 61 years.

MURDOCH.—At Ayr on 26th September, Andrew Murdoch, aged 62 years.

McSKIMMING.—At Ballochmyle on 10th October, Peter McSkimming, aged 75 years.

SANDERSON.—At Carlisle on 15th October, Annie Sanderson.

WOODBURN.—At 13 Millers Road on 22nd October, Jemima Dickson, aged 84 years.

MATHIESON.—At Ballochmyle on 25th October, Elizabeth (Bet) Mathieson, aged 32 years (of 134 Main Street).

RAE.—At Ballochmyle on 9th November, Thomas Rae, aged 47 years.

MACKIN.—Killed in Korea on 5th November, Joseph Mackin, aged 19 years.

TOWLE.—Accidently killed in Kames Colliery on 14th November, William Towle, aged 52 years.

HUNTER.—At Co-op. Buildings on 27th November, Mary Dempster, aged 59 years.

THOMSON.—In Ohio on 20th November, William Thomson, aged 71 years.

BARR.—At The Castle, Glenbuck, on 10th December, William Barr, aged 62 years.

THOMSON.—In Ohio on 1st December, Jean Murdoch, aged 57 years.

McCALL.—At Nottingham on 13th December, John McCall, aged 74 years.

BURNSIDE.—At Mauchline on 23rd December, Robert Burnside, aged 49 years.

MURDOCH.—At 24 Midhouse Row on 19th December, John Murdoch, aged 79 years.

TAIT.—At Edinburgh on 19th December, James Tait.

MUIR.—At Aberdeen on 29th December, Joseph Muir, aged 46 years.

CHAPTER FORTY-FIVE

(1952)

In November another link with old Muirkirk was severed with the death of the founder of the "Muirkirk Advertiser," and I quote from the issue of 6th November:—

Mr W. SHAW SMITH

Smith the printer has gone, and with his passing ends an era in the life of the village, as almost all his contemporaries have gone before him.

Born in Carnwath in 1868, William Shaw Smith came to Muirkirk in 1894 to start the printing business so successfully carried on ever since. In 1907 he started "The Muirkirk Advertiser," first as a gratis sheet, and with little interruption it has continued publication, grown in importance, and in more recent years enlarged its boundaries to take in Douglas and its Dales.

In his early days in the village, W. S. Smith threw himself into the life of the community, and was prominently identified with many of the numerous societies which flourished at that time. Many of these societies, like the Photographic, Ramblers, Sports, Minstrels, and so on, are but memories, while others still survive, such as the Bowling Club, the Golf Club, the Ornithological Society, the Baird Institute, and the Football Club. All had his interest and active help. He was also a member of that group of enthusiasts, The Peripatetics, whose money-raising activities during the First World War are still remembered with affection. There is no record of his participation in football, but he took a great interest in the game and only advancing years forced his non-attendance at Ladeside.

Apart from his local interests, in the world of pigeons he had a national reputation, and was a successful exhibitor and judge all over the country for a surprising number of years. He was widely known and respected for his knowledge of and interest in pigeons, first in Jacobins and later in long-faced Tumblers. The high spot of his career in the Fancy was possibly the winning of the supreme championship and six cups with one Jacobin at the Crystal Palace Show in 1910, but he had many classic wins to his credit.

Advancing years took their toll, and pigeons gave way to smaller and more easily tended birds, but the "Doo Hoose" was a sanctuary always and many a pleasant hour was spent among the birds. Call it his escape from the worries and perplexities of life, from which he would emerge refreshed and able to tackle any problem. He made a wide circle of friends in the Fancy, and always said there were many fine people he would never have known if it had not been for their common interest in pigeons.

Among his many interests was the gathering of a collection of antiques which has surprised many visitors by the wide range of the collection and the knowledgeableness of the owner.

Age brought on a lessening of his activities, but he never really retired and most days he would make his way to the Printing Office, there to take a share in the work of the business.

Always cheerful, he was glad to say he did not have an ache or pain, and this happy state continued to the end. No pain, the brain clear and receptive, and a blissful unawareness that the tide was fast running out. A long and happy life, with few sorrows and a speedy and easy passing when the time had come; truly much to be grateful for.

Predeceased by his wife, Jeannie, by over twenty years, he leaves a grown-up family to mourn his loss. He will be missed by many who were proud to call him friend, and his place in the community will be indeed hard to fill. May he rest in peace.

SEEN AND HEARD

Muirkirk's Top Ten Girls had their pictures in the "Weekly News," namely Helen Smith, Chrissie Goodlet, Marion Kirkwood, Isobel Goodlet, Yolanda Hamilton, Sadie Beck, Ruby Casey, Sadie Menzies, Nan Johnstone, and Christine Murdoch.

Very severe wintry conditions were experienced in 1952, which lasted over a prolonged period.

The Rev. W. B. Stewart was inducted as Minister of Muirkirk E.U. Congregational Church.

Sergeant McLeod of Muirkirk Constabulary was transferred to Stevenston. Sergeant Scott from Irvine was the replacement.

At the Coal Queen dance famous boxer Peter Keenan chose Miss Betty Rattray to represent Muirkirk at the Miners' Gala at Edinburgh.

Tommy Rae won the Boys' Sports Championship at Muirkirk J.S. School, while the Girls' honour went to Janette Girdwood.

Muirkirk's Dux Medallist was James Grant.

A new bridge was erected over the River Ayr at the entrance to Kames Colliery in October.

Amongst Ayrshire wills published was that of Miss Martha Pearson. Crofthead, who left £5,034.

EXIT THE PAVILION

In November the old Pavilion building was pulled to the ground. Memories of this old entertainment rendezvous and the characters they bring to mind, are somewhat mixed, and in many cases, amusing. The Pavilion could by no means ever be described as the last word in comfort, still it played its part in the entertainment of the villagers in days gone by.

It was situated roughly between Kinloch-Anderson Factory and the Slag Bing.

NEW FIRE STATION

Muirkirk's new Fire Station at Smallburn was opened in November. The first station at Muirkirk was opened in 1939 and was situated at Victoria Buildings, Main Street, but the premises were inadequate, and with the fire engine situated so close to an open fire, there was danger of fire to the building. This was the main reason for looking for new premises.

On the site of the new fire station there were four houses at the front and two at the rear. One of the houses at the front and two at the back were removed, and the remainder of the building made suitable for the station.

VITAL STATISTICS 1951

Births	35	(40)
Marriages	35	(21)
Deaths	35	(26)

The 1950 figures are shown in parenthesis.

THE CLOSING OF KAMES CHURCH

(11th December Issue)

Farewells are sad experiences, and there was an atmosphere of deep regret around the little congregation in Kames Church on Sunday afternoon, when the closing service, conducted by the Rev. Chris. Jack and Rev. C. Horn, turned the final page in the history of the picturesque little church which holds very dear memories for many Muirkirk folks over almost half-a-century.

Alas, attendances have not justified its continuance as a place of worship, and as Rev. Chris. Jack pointed out in his short history of the Church, the story has been one mostly of struggle.

The Church was opened on 31st January, 1904, by the then Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Right Rev. John Gillespie, L.L.D, who spoke of the generous gift of Messrs William Baird & Co., Ltd., in building the Church. The actual builders were George Reid & Son, Catrine, and the late Mr John Wood, Muirkirk, did the joiner work.

The first Minister was Rev. John Scott Thomson who was succeeded in 1922 by Rev. Donald M. Beaton. Less than two years later Rev. William N. Neal took over the charges, but resigned to take up a commission in H.M. Forces in the First World War, and in 1916 Rev. John Alexander, M.A., was appointed. In 1922 the policy of appointing Missionaries was adopted and Mr John Richmond was appointed in that year, followed by Mr T. P. Wilson in 1936, and Mr W. H. Martin in 1937. Mr Horn had carried on faithfully in difficult conditions since 1951.

Mr Jack paid tribute to the faithful work of the managers and elders, and the Woman's Guild, and also to Mr Hugh Williamson, Church Officer for over 41 years till his retiral last years.

At the close of a most impressive ceremony Mr Jack and Mr Horn shook hands with the congregation as they sadly filed from the Church for the last time.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The local results were as follows:—

COUNTY COUNCIL (One Seat)	
George M. Bain	1357
James Masterton	321
DISTRICT COUNCIL (Two Seats)	
David Stitt	1242
Andrew Moreland	1227
Thomas Shaw	354

HOGG THE BAKER

For several generations the firm of Hogg the Bakers has served the public in Muirkirk and district, and it is not without a tinge of regret that we learn that as from Monday, 26th May, this popular old firm is being taken over by new owners. It is quite a coincidence, however, that the newcomers have the same name—Hogg, so that while Mr and Mrs T. Hogg are giving up business, the old name will remain, and Mr Hogg assures us that the newcomers have the qualifications to uphold the traditions of the old firm.

MUIRKIRK PARISH CHURCH



REV. CHRIS J. JACK
who was inducted to the charge of Muirkirk Parish on 12th January.

COMMERCIAL NEWS

Helen Coull, 68 Main Street, took over the business previously owned by Miss Mary Wallace at Victoria Buildings.

Three local chip shops increased their prices in February, viz.

- N. DA PRATO & SON, Derby Cafe
- R. H. BROWN, Welcome Cafe
- W. B. R. GIRVAN, Wagon Road Cafe.

Michael Boland advertised wallpaper, etc., at his shop at 94 Main Street.

Mr T. Rorrison, Post Office, was appointed agent for H.M.V. Television sets.

James Paterson operated his Blacksmith Shop from the old Ironworks Store.

In March John Thomson, Dairyman, intimated that because of Government legislation he could not dispense milk direct from the churns, he would in future be delivering bottled milk from Stevenson's Dairy Farm, Cumnock. Jock of course was a familiar figure in the village with his horse and cart, and "Donald" was always looking for a piece!

Two dance bands playing locally were The Modernaires and the Melody Quintette.

Mrs Sarah McAtee opened a Millinery Shop at 94 Main Street in May.

During his absence in the Armed Forces, Mr James Pringle, Hairdresser, announced that Mrs R. Russell would carry on the business at 80 Mian Street.

Obituaries**Mr JOSEPH THOMSON**

One of our old residents and a very well-known local personality, Mr Joseph Thomson, passed away at his home at 158 Main Street on 11th January. A miner by occupation, Joe was an enthusiastic musician in his early days, and was one of the stalwarts of the brass band movement in our village. He was always ready to help and encourage the young player, and could be depended upon to help out by playing practically any one of the larger band instruments in an emergency. He had a remarkable memory, and could recall dates and personalities from the dim past with amazing ease and accuracy. For long he was also identified with local Freemasonry, and his elocutionary contributions, including "Tam o' Shanter" and "Paraffin Ile," were greatly appreciated on social occasions. Joe was 81 years of age. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Mr JOHN McCALL

The announcement recently of the death in Nottingham of Mr John McCall, at the age of 74 years, would recall memories for many of our older football enthusiasts. Eldest son of the late William McCall of Midhouse Row, "Wee Jock," as he was familiarly called, was one of Muirkirk's outstanding football exponents of his generation. In Junior circles he played with Muirkirk Athletic and Strathclyde before going "upstairs" to Edinburgh Hibernian, with whom he had the distinction of winning a Scottish Cup Medal. He then migrated to Bristol City and finished his career with Notts County. Jock was a great pal and colleague of the famous "Sunny Jim" Young of Glasgow Celtic. Predeceased by his wife he leaves a married daughter.

Mr MATT. ANDERSON

The death was announced on 30th January of Mr Matt. Anderson, who resided at Gasworks Cottage, Furnace Road. A miner by profession, Matt., who was in his 78th year, retired from active work seven years ago, and he had been in failing health for some time. Mr Anderson was a well-known and popular figure in our midst, and in his younger days his keen sporting instincts found expression on the football field and the quoiting and bowling greens, while he was also a member of the old Muirkirk Parish Silver Band. As a football legislator he became one of the best-known personalities in the county, and from 1903 to 1926 he represented Muirkirk Athletic on various bodies, and was President, at one time or another, of the Cumnock League, Ayrshire Junior Southern League, the Cumnock & Mauchline Cup Associations, and Kilmarnock Junior F.A. He was also a Life Member of the Ayrshire J.F.A.

Mr WILLIAM WALLACE

Mr William Wallace, a well-known and highly respected personality in Muirkirk passed away on 10th April at his home, Glenburn, Main Street. Mr Wallace carried on a shoe-repairing business at Victoria Buildings for many years, and he also owned several local properties. He retired several years ago.

Mr THOMAS MORRISON

We regret to record the passing of a highly respected member of the community, Mr Thos. Morrison, who died on 2nd May at 20 Colthart Drive (the residence of his son, Mr John Morrison). Mr Morrison was well known throughout Ayrshire and farther afield through his long and faithful connection with the Co-operative movement. In Muirkirk Co-operative Society he served on the Board of Management for the long period of 45 years, and for 26 years of that time he filled the office of President with acceptance and dignity. He also had a long connection with the Ayrshire Co-operative Wages Board, and for a quarter of a century he was treasurer of that body. Mr Morrison was a keen horticulturist, and an angler of some skill, winning the local Angling Association Cup on a number of occasions. He was in his 79th year and leaves an invalid wife and grown-up family.

Mr WILLIAM C. WEIR

Many friends in this district would learn with regret of the passing of Mr William C. Weir at Portobello on 11th November. A native of Selkirk, Mr Weir had a long connection with Muirkirk. In 1913 he married Miss Bella Smith of the Masons Arms Hotel, and he and his good lady will long be remembered as host and hostess of "The Heid Inns," as many still prefer to call this establishment. Mr Weir was also proprietor of the Picture House for a number of years, and was in fact the pioneer of "talking" pictures in Muirkirk, while he also introduced the Sunday cinema shows in Muirkirk, possibly the first in Scotland to have regular Sunday shows. He took a great interest in quoiting, and was largely responsible for many of the teathy struggles which took place on the old quoiting ground behind the Hotel (where now stands Cairnview Housing Site). The competition for the Weir Cup was an annual event.

FOOTBALL (Season 1951-52)

Muirkirk had the makings of a good team, but an indifferent start to the season left the supporters disappointed. After drawing with Arthurlie 2—2 in the first round of the Scottish Cup they lost the replay 4—1.

They drew their first round West of Scotland Cup game 3—3 with Yoker, and won the replay 4—0, only to go down to the lowly Riccarton Bluebell in the next round by 1—0.

They did well in the Ayrshire Cup and met Ardrossan Winton Rovers at Somerset Park in the final, but after a spirited display they lost 2—0. The game virtually ended in the second half when Sanny Smith lobbed over the keeper's head to give Ardrossan a second goal. The Muirkirk team was:—Craig; Connel, Caldwell; Crawford, Smith, McDowall; Hanlon, Telfer, McConville, Currie, Higgins.

The following week at the same venue in a replayed semi-final Moore Trophy tie, Muirkirk lost 4—0 to Annbank United.

In the League Muirkirk challenged the leaders for some time, but in the end ran out of steam, and so 1952 was the old story of early promise, ending in bitter disappointment.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1952**BIRTHS**

- WILSON.—At Irvine on 16th March to Mr and Mrs Robert K. Wilson; a son.
 FABER.—At Thornyflat on 5th April to Mr and Mrs A. J. Faber; a daughter.
 KAY.—At Chapeltown on 14th May to Mr and Mrs Harold Kay; a son.
 BARR.—At Thornyflat on 14th May to Mr and Mrs Sydney Barr; a son.
 GOLDIE.—At Ipswich on 28th June to Mr and Mrs John Goldie; a daughter.
 SPENCE.—At Douglas on 25th September to Mr and Mrs John Spence; a son.
 DIRAM.—At Dumfries on 7th October to Mr and Mrs Robert Diram; a daughter.
 NIMMO.—At Irvine on 23rd October to Mr and Mrs Robert Nimmo; a son.

MARRIAGES

- ROBERT NIMMO to MARGARET HILL on 28th January.
 WILLIAM HILL to ISABELLA SAMSON on 8th February
 DANIEL BARRIE to ANNIE STIRLING on 23rd February.
 ROBERT SMITH to ELIZABETH MURRAY on 7th March.
 THOMAS SMITH to SARAH HILL on 22nd March.
 WILLIAM DIXON to EUPHEMIA GUTHRIE on 29th March.
 ARCHIE FINDLAY to THOMASINA SAMSON on 4th April.
 ROBERT TAYLOR to EFFIE MACLELLAN on 10th April.
 ROBERT BEGG to AGNES PORTER on 2nd June.
 DAVID DEMPSTER to MARY PURDIE on 7th June.
 NORMAN HARRISON to HELEN HENDERSON on 21st June.
 HUGH SAMSON to MARY WEIR on 28th June.
 JOHN WILSON to HELEN FINDLAY on 28th June.
 JOHN SMITH to HELEN LAWSON on 2nd July.
 CHARLES WILSON to GWYNETH WILLIAMS on 26th July.
 LESLIE HADDEN to ELIZABETH DANE on 2nd August.
 JAMES BLACKWOOD to ISABELLA ANDERSON on 15th August.
 ROBERT GIBSON to LENA JOHNSTONE on 20th August.
 EDWARD GRIMSEY to MARY HIGGINS on 26th August.
 ROBERT GILMOUR to MARGARET DAVIDSON on 12th September.
 WILLIAM MACKAY to MARGARET HAUGH on 16th September.
 THOMAS DICKSON to ELIZABETH WHITE on 10th October.
 WILLIAM BLACKWOOD to THOMASINA SAMSON on 18th October.
 DUGALD BONE to SARAH FORRESTER on 29th November.
 DAVID KIRKLAND to VERA OLIVER on 6th December.
 JOHN CUMMING to JANE BONE on 12th December.

DEATHS

- MARSHALL.—At 97 Main Street on 7th January, John Marshall, aged 63 years.
 ROSS.—At Tullibody on 4th January, John Ross, aged 50 years.
 DICKSON.—At Wellwood Street on 7th January, Jeannie Baird, aged 75 years.
 McBRIDE.—At 10 Hawkshaw Terrace on 10th January, George McBride, aged 58 years.
 ANDERSON.—At Hairmyers on 30th January, Matthew Anderson, aged 78 years.
 CHAPMAN.—At 32 Springhill Terrace on 21st January, John Chapman, aged 71 years.
 McMORRAN.—At Ballochmyle on 24th January, Margaret Wilson, aged 30 years.
 TAYLOR.—At Old Bank on 25th January, Agnes Caldwell, aged 48 years.
 HOGG.—At 35 Glasgow Road on 4th February, Jean Ingram, aged 94 years.
 BONE.—At Kilbirnie on 11th February, George Bone, aged 77 years (late of Glenbuck).
 FYFE.—At Irvine on 15th February, Marion Fyfe, aged 16 months (of 12 Garronhill).
 HOWATSON.—At 22 Middlefield Drive on 19th February, Janet Howatson, aged 89 years.
 BONE.—At 38 Colthart Drive on 24th February, Edward Bone, aged 70 years.
 PARK.—At Irvine on 17th February, Catherine McFegan, aged 43 years.
 COWAN.—At Edinburgh on 27th February, William Cowan, aged 53 years.
 LAWSON.—At 8 Garronhill on 4th March, John Lawson, aged 63 years.
 MARLIN.—At 19 Colthart Drive on 9th March, Margaret Baird, aged 69 years.
 McCLURE.—At 68 Smallburn on 3rd March, Mary McCormack, aged 68 years.
 WHARRIE.—At 20 Main Street on 7th March, Agnes Russell, aged 78 years.
 PALMER.—At Kames Crossing on 16th March, John Palmer, aged 58 years.
 FORBES.—At Holmhead, Cumnock, on 21st March, John Forbes, aged 88 years.
 KERR.—At Hurlford on 17th March, Carlino Robb, aged 62 years.
 DALZIEL.—At 2 Stitt Place on 1st April, Jean Shankland, aged 79 years.
 McCONNELL.—At Sheffield on 28th March, Maggie Ferguson (late of Glenbuck).
 McINTOSH.—At Dunlop House on 1st April, Wee Marion, aged 12 years (of 9 Pagan Walk).
 FINDLAY.—At a hospital on 7th April, Robert Findlay, aged 76 years.
 HAWKINS.—In Canada on 20th April, Charles Hawkins.
 CAMPBELL.—At 58 Colthart Drive on 6th May, Jean Campbell, aged 75 years.
 DEMPSTER.—At 4 Madeleine Place on 4th May, Elizabeth Gourlay, aged 83 years.

MORRISON.—At 20 Colthart Drive on 2nd May, Thomas Morrison, aged 78 years.

LIDLAW.—At Bankend Cottages, Cumnock, on 13th May, Jane Jamieson.

WINNING.—At Glasgow on 20th May, James Winning.

FYFE.—At 42 Kames Row on 10th June, Hugh Fyfe, aged 66 years.

SMITH.—At 32 Colthart Drive on 6th June, Lily Smith, aged 56 years.

SYMINGTON.—At Kilmarnock on 20th June, Robert Symington, aged 87 years (late of Smallburn).

BARRIE.—At 10 Wellwood Street on 29th June, William Barrie, aged 54 years.

BROWN.—At 6 Jubilee Row, Glenbuck, on 28th June, Marion Simpson.

COOK.—At Wellwood Toll on 27th June, Duncan Cook, aged 70 years.

THOMSON.—At Isle Cottage on 27th June, Robert Thomson.

MOFFAT.—At 2 Lapraik Avenue on 30th June, Mary Murdoch.

WILSON.—At Ballochmyle on 4th July, John Wilson, aged 75 years.

ESSON.—At Birmingham on 14th July, James Esson.

SHAW.—On 31st July, Alexander Shaw.

WHITE.—At Edinburgh on 27th August, Margaret Tait (late of Glenbuck).

BELL.—At St. Nicholas, Wellwood Street, on 8th September, Jessie Bell, aged 73 years.

FREW.—At 26 Henderson Drive on 6th September, David Frew, aged 82 years.

GRAY.—At Ballochmyle on 4th September, Thomas Gray, aged 35 years.

HANNAH.—As the result of an accident on 2nd September, William Hannah, wee son of Mr and Mrs William Hannah, 37 New Terrace.

WYLLIE.—At Ballochmyle on 10th September, John Wyllie, aged 17 years.

CANNON.—At Masonic Hall on 27th September, William Cannon, aged 78 years.

PETERS.—At Irvine on 23rd September, Wee Bill, aged 23 months.

BONE.—At 106 Main Street on 18th October, Margaret Gibson, aged 73 years.

McADAM.—At 38 Kames Row on 21st October, Matthew McAdam, aged 27 years.

MAILOR.—At 56 New Terrace on 21st October, Mary Hughes, aged 64 years.

SAMSON.—At 21 Colthart Drive on 20th October, Agnes Strathearn, aged 74 years.

BOYES.—At Shotts on 13th October, Jane Murray, aged 55 years.

McMICHAEL.—At Glasgow on 1st November, Katherine Taylor.

SMITH.—At Bona Vista on 2nd November, William Shaw Smith (Printer), aged 85 years.

WEIR.—At Portobella on 11th November, William C. Weir, aged 62 years.

SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 15th November, Sarah Bradford, aged 54 years.

BEGG.—At Lugar on 23rd November, George Begg.

ESQUIERDO.—At Glasgow on 25th November, Juana Esquierdo.

MURRAY.—At Kilmarnock on 22nd November, Mary Currie, aged 75 years.

WILSON.—At 1 Wellwood Street on 22nd November, James Wilson, aged 71 years.

BONE.—At Ayr on 28th November, Margaret Pollock, aged 65 years.

McCALL.—At Ballochmyle on 9th December, John McCall, aged 88 years.

CRUICKSHANK.—At London on 8th December, Annie Wilson.

ADAMSON.—On 30th December, John Adamson, of 50 Garrohill.

MILLIKEN.—At Ballochmyle on 25th December, John Milliken, aged 43 years.

STEELE.—At 1 Wellwood Avenue on 27th December, Gavin Steele, aged 72 years.

GLENBUCK FOOTBAL LEGENDS



WILLIE SHANKLY



JOHNNY CROSBIE

CHAPTER FORTY-SIX

(1953)

MUIRKIRK DANCE BAND

WINS ALL-BRITAIN

SECTION "B" CHAMPIONSHIP

(15th October Issue)

The members of the Modernaires Dance Orchestra from Muirkirk had the distinction of winning their Section in the "Melody Maker" All-Britain Dance Band Championship Finals at Manchester on Sunday—a performance of which they, and the whole of our district, can justly be proud.

They were competing in Section B, in which they were opposed by four bands, all winners of their Regional contests as follows:—

The Woodchoppers Dance Orchestra, Farnworth
The Meloman Quintet, London
The Ray Chester Sextet, Sunderland; and the
Band Box Junior Student Orchestra, Wolverhampton.

The adjudicators were Pat Brand, Editor of "The Melody Maker," Jack Parnell, Steve Race, Maurice Burman, and Leslie Evans, all celebrities in the world of dance music, and the compere was Wilfred Thomas of the B.B.C.

In the vast and magnificent King's Hall at Belle Vue an audience of 7,000 listened to the bands, and there were only two representatives from Scotland, The Modernaires, and The Beavers from Glasgow, who were competing in Section A.

The Modernaires were drawn to play fourth in Section B, and the judges had no hesitation in placing them first, with 134 points, which was 14 points ahead of The Woodchoppers, who were awarded the second prize.

The Muirkirk combination played the three numbers with which they had won the Regional Championship at Glasgow, and these were the Waltz, "I Fall in Love too Easily;" the Quickstep, "All of Me;" and the Foxtrot, "Laura," special arrangements of which had been scored by another Muirkirk musician, Mr John Clark, formerly pianist with The Modernaires, and now professional with Andy Currie's Band at the Bobby Jones Ballroom, Ayr. The line-up of the winning band was as follows:—

Tom Hill 1st Alto Sax
John Wilson 1st Tenor Sax
Gerard Lang 2nd Tenor Sax
William Walker Baritone Sax
James Jones Trumpet
Robert Weir Piano
Robert Wallace Bass
James Lang Drums

The Muirkirk party of 33, including the band members, had travelled by 'bus overnight, leaving Muirkirk at 1 o'clock on Sunday morning, and when the result was announced and Leader Tom Hill stepped forward to receive a handsome challenge trophy and an accompanying cheque for 25 guineas the Muirkirk party went daft with delight, and the English folk will doubtless agree with compere Winfred Thomas when he remarked "There must be something in this porridge after all."

The other Scottish band, The Beavers, who have been Scottish Section A champions on several occasions and who have been third and fourth in previous All-Britain contests, had a bit of bad luck, one of their lead players failing to turn up. Tom Hill gallantly filled the breach, but the Scots boys failed to

catch the judges' eye in this instance; but one first out of two bands was good enough going for Scotland.

The Muirkirk party spent a glorious evening in Belle Vue, and arrived back in Muirkirk at six o'clock on Monday morning, very tired, but very, very happy.

Well done, The Modernaires!

FROM CINEMA TO CHURCH

A new church built in Logans Road, Motherwell, by the R.C. population from the north part of the town, was opened and dedicated by Bishop Edward Douglas. Of special interest to Muirkirk in the new building is the fact that the steel shell of the new sanctuary was formerly part of the Old Pavilion Picture House at Smallburn. It was dismantled and taken to Motherwell in lorries by members of the congregation.

POOLS WINNER

Mr Robert Wallace, Wellwood Avenue, comes of the well-known Glenbuck football family. In his younger days he was a power on the left wing of local junior teams and represented the County on several occasions at outside left. But his biggest football thrill came the other Saturday when he discovered he had an all-correct entry in the Treble Chance competition of a well-known football pool. The sequel followed on Thursday afternoon, when the postman brought him a cheque for £3,051—a grand dividend for a sixpence investment. Nice going, Rabbie!

OFF THE RATION

The welcome news last week (February) that sweet rationing had ended did not seem to bring any special rush to the shops, but many jaws have been busy since, nevertheless.

JUVENILE CLUB FORMED

In March, at a public meeting, it was decided to restart a juvenile football team in Muirkirk. Officials appointed were:—

President Mr A. Grant
Vice-President Mr John Morrison
Secretary Mr George Bradford
Treasurer Mr Owen Gibney

It is expected that a team will be ready to take part in competitive football next season.

GOLF GALA

A very extensive Gala Day, in aid of the Coronation celebration Fund) was planned for Auldhouseburn Course on 16th May, but owing to the heavy rain and high winds on that day, the activities had to be held indoors at the Furnace Road School. A sum of about £50 was cleared from the effort.

SNIPPETS

Muirkirk (Kames) Penny Savings Bank was closed on 10th July.

The Dux of Muirkirk Junior Secondary School was Janette Campbell.

Barbara Jones commenced a ladies' hairdressing business in July.

SEEN AND HEARD

The death was announced of Gavin Steele, a well-known member of Muirkirk Bowling Club. He was 72.

Two members of the Modernaires Band, Mr James Weir and Mr James O'Brien, left in January for South Africa.

Muirkirk man, Mr Joe Davidson, who had been Gas Manager at Callander was promoted to a similar position at Annan.

Mr Thomas Gibb won the Reserve Championship at Crufts London Show with his Chow dog, Black Idol of Kinshan.

Mr and Mrs David Ross, 138 Main Street, celebrated their golden wedding in March.

At a dance held by Muirkirk Cycling & Athletic Club, Mr James Wilson was chosen as "Mr Personality."

In August one and a half acres at Bankend Farm on the former open-cast site have been taken over for a mine, to be worked privately by Mr James Burns, Edinburgh. It is hoped about ten men will be employed.

Mr James Auld, Captain of 1st Muirkirk Boys' Brigade for the past six years resigned. Mr John Turner was elected in his place.

Rev. Myles Moriarty, in charge at St. Thomas' Church for the past thirteen years left to take up a similar appointment at Waterside. His place at Muirkirk was filled by Rev. Thomas Kevin Conway, from Dumfries.

The licence for the Black Bull Hotel was transferred to Mrs Effie M. Davis, Balfron.

The annual Bird Show in the Drill Hall in December attracted over 600 entries.

Local man, Pte. Adam Hogg took part in a round-the-world radio broadcast on Christmas day. Adam was representing all the lads in Korea.

TIBBIES' STONE (October)

A praise-worthy gesture on the part of local man, Mr Robert Cameron, has been the repair and reconditioning of Tibbie Pagan's Stone beside the Garpel Water. Some time ago the two cast iron ewes on the monument were removed—conjecture has it that they might have found their way to America—but Mr Cameron has fixed on two others, and repainted the stone.

CO-OP. CLOSED

At a special general meeting of Glenbuck Co-operative Society in August it was decided by 17 vote to 1 that the members transfer their stock, property and other assets and all engagements to the Muirkirk Co-operative Society, Ltd., in consideration that they obtain paid-up shares in the Muirkirk Society. As a result the Co-op. at Glenbuck was closed and the village is being served by a shopping van from Muirkirk.

NOTICE (June 4th Issue)

Would the poor, mean party who took the Coronation Flag from Linkieburn call at the above address, where he can be supplied with bunting, flags, a good meal, and a few coppers if necessary?

MUIRKIRK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

DIVIDEND

1/11 per £1 on Purchasers

VITAL STATISTICS, 1952

Births	39 (35)
Marriages	28 (35)
Deaths	44 (35)

The figures in brackets are for 1951. It should be remembered in the case of births, quite a number are registered at Irvine.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT KAMES COLLIERY
(28th May Issue)

When an inrush of water burst through the coal face yesterday morning in a place in Bell's Mine Section, where two men were working, it carried everything before it down a steep gradient. Rails, sleepers, trees, hutches, coal and dirt were all swept away in the sudden surge, and one of the workers, Andrew Frew, faceman, aged 31 years of age, was buried under the debris. His body was discovered several hours later. The other man, Tom McCann, Garpel Avenue, was swept on to the main roadway, and sustained a broken leg and other injuries. He was removed to Ballochmyle Hospital. Mr Frew, a married man, resided at 13 Old Terrace, and to his wife and young family of eight the deepest sympathy of our community goes out in their sudden and heavy loss.

A poignant feature of the tragedy was that the Frew family expected to move to a new home in Smallburn Housing Scheme last night.

The funeral of the victim took place to Muirkirk Cemetery on Saturday, when the cortege was the largest seen locally for many years. Hundreds turned out to pay their last respects, and six of his fellow-workers were pall-bearers.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Tuesday, 2nd June, could easily be described as one of Muirkirk's greatest days when the Celebrations Committee laid on a full programme of activities to celebration the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

The proceedings started with a huge fancy dress parade, including seven decorated lorries and decorated cycles as well as a host of individuals. The parade proceeded to the Victory Park where a full sports programme was enjoyed. The Go-as-You-Please competition brought force some really entertaining talent.

In the evening there was old-time dancing in the Drill Hall, and there was an old folks treat in the Ironworks Institute.

At 11.30 a large crowd assembled at Smallburn to watch the bonfire on the Slag Hill, where some fireworks were also set off.

The final phase of the celebrations took place in the Ironworks Institute, where till well on in the morning dancing was enjoyed to music by the Melody Quintette.

A film of the days' events was taken, which was later shown at The Picture House.

During the day large audiences of older folk watched the activities in London on TV sets kindly provided by local dealers.

Coronation Day brought special joy to Mr and Mrs Ronald Murdoch, 16 Lapraik Avenue, with the birth of a son.

At the weekend all the children received their gifts—a Coronation Badge and a pencil case filled with chocolates

Obituary

Mr S. C. MATTHEWS

Mr S. C. Matthews, Branch Manager of the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance, and a very well known figure in Muirkirk for many years, died suddenly on Christmas morning at his home at 12 Wellwood Avenue. Mr Matthews had suffered a severe illness during the summer months, but for a month or two had been back on duty at his office in Main Street, and his sudden passing came as a shock to a wide circle of friends. He was 61 years of age.

A native of Newmilns, Mr Matthews came to Muirkirk 21 years ago, and at once threw himself whole-heartedly into our community life. He was connected with the Golf Club and the Parish Silver Band, while he held the office of President in the Lapraik Burns Club, the Bowling Club, and the Continuation Class Choir.

As a First World War man his experience was used to advantage as officer-in-charge of the local Home Guard during the 1939-45 War, and in 1941 he was appointed Billeting Officer for the Parish.

A former footballer, he was keenly interested in the game, and held watching briefs for Plymouth and later Kilmarnock F.C. He was also a follower of Kilmarnock Cricket Club.

A knowledgeable man, with a fund of pawky Scots humour, Mr Matthews was an entertaining and popular speaker, while he corresponded for several newspapers and with many friends outwith the parish.

As a Presbytery Elder, Clerk to the Congregational Board, and, until he resigned a month or two ago, Session Clerk, Mr Matthews was a devoted servant of Muirkirk Parish Church, and no demand on his time or talent was too great in this service. His interest extended to all the Church organisations, and especially the Boys' Brigade, of which he was a member of the Executive Committee.

The funeral took place from the Parish Church to Muirkirk cemetery, and at the service in the Church a large congregation, which included representatives of local and county organisations, paid their last respects. The Rev. A. M. Paterson, Tarbolton, a schoolboy chum of Mr Matthews, and Rev. Chris. Jack conducted the service, and paid eloquent tribute to a man of character, good heart and ability.

To Mrs Matthews, Margaret and Crosbie we would express the deepest sympathy in their sudden and heavy loss.

Mr ROBERT STEVEN

Friends and pupils of Mr Robert Steven. A.R.T.C., all over Britain and in many countries abroad will mourn the passing of this quiet, well loved figure who has played such an important part in preparing Ayrshire youth for the mining industry for almost forty years.

For over thirty years he held the position of Chief Mining Lecturer in Ayrshire, but he was much more than that—he was the guide, philosopher and friend of countless young students, many of whom have made their mark in mining, educational, and various other spheres, and all of whom agree that to a very large extent they owe their success to the careful “grounding” given them by Bob Steven.

Bob, like many of his generation, came up the hard way. He left school at the age of eleven years to work at the pits, but

could not start underground till he was twelve years of age! But though his schooldays finished at such a tender age, Bob Steven's enthusiasm for learning was to last throughout his entire life, and not only had he the capacity to assimilate knowledge, but he had the happy knack of imparting that knowledge to his students in a manner which was enduring.

An extremely modest man, his patient, painstaking methods gained for him the appreciation and respect for all who passed under his wing; and for his pupils brought success to build up over the years a record of achievement which will stand as a glowing example for many a long day to come.

Almost seven years ago Mr Steven received a remarkable testimony when the time came for him to retire from the Chief Lectureship. Over 200 guests, nearly all of them his former students and many of them prominent personalities in the mining and educational worlds, assembled to pay tribute to his sterling worth and make him a truly handsome presentation contributed to by friends in India, South Africa, U.S.A., Germany, Ireland, and all over the British coalfield.

It was not long, however, till Mr Steven's services were again in demand, and until his illness he gave further valuable contributions to the mining industry in a tutorial capacity.

Mr Steven was in his 73rd year. During the winter he was taken with pneumonia, but was able to resume his duties later. After Christmas, however, he was taken ill again and he passed away at his home at 55 Glasgow Road early on 11th April.

Throughout his long career Mr Steven had constant encouragement and help from his sister, Mrs Symington, who made many friends amongst the students, and to her and her family and the other relatives, we extend the sympathy of the community in their bereavement.

BURIED AT SEA

In accordance with his life-long wish, the body of Mr John Hogg, retired master baker, and Ex-Navyman, was buried at sea three miles out from Ayr Harbour.

A Muirkirk man and well-known in the district, Mr Hogg started business in Pollokshaws in 1924 and retired a few years ago. The simple burial ceremony was carried out from the deck of Ayr Harbour dredger, S.S. Carrick. Mr Hogg is survived by his wife and two married daughters.

FIRE AT GLENBUCK

On Sunday evening, 18th October, the final meeting in Glenbuck Public Hall was attended by about forty worshippers, including a party from Larkhall, and it was expected that the old wooden building would be demolished this week, but at about 12.45 on Monday morning it was discovered that the building was on fire, and by the time Muirkirk Fire Brigade under Section Leader Wyllie, could reach the scene, it was too late to save anything, and the building was gutted.

The firemen, who had some difficulty in getting a supply of water, concentrated on saving near-by Slate Cottage.

As usual, the Glenbuck ladies who had provided the tea at the closing meeting the previous evening, had brought along their best china, and unfortunately this had been left in the Hall and was destroyed, along with tablecloths and cutlery. The Hall cat's kittens also perished in the blaze.

FOOTBALL (Season 1952-53)

For the new season it was to be yet another frustrating one for the supporters of Muirkirk Juniors. The team was dealt a severe blow with the departure of the following players to the senior ranks:—Alex. Smith to Queen of the South; Eric Caldwell to Glasgow Rangers; and Neil Moore to St. Mirren.

Despite this, the Juniors got away to a cracking start in the League, winning their first seven games, scoring 18 goals for the loss of 7. But two defeats in one week started the slide downwards, and it was a big disappointment to be beaten 2—0 by St. Roch's in the 1st round of the Scottish Cup. The team was:—Craig; Rankine, Hughes; Connell, Murray, McDowall; Hanlon, Wallace, Muir, Dagostina, Higgins.

Later in the season they recovered well and were soon challenging for the League title with some notable wins including a 7—0 trouncing of Glenafton and a fine victory over Cumnock by 3—2. In the closing stages for the League title their performances against lesser opposition left much to be desired, and a 3—2 defeat by Lugar virtually ended the challenge.

Things looked brighter in the silverware field, but at Somerset Park they lost 2—1 to Dalry Thistle in the final of the Land o' Burns Cup. They were successful with a protest against the Dalry keeper, only to lose the replay 3—0. The team was:—Lowrie; Connell, Hughes; McDowall, Dagostina, Haugh; Philips Telfer, Muir, Hanlon, Moore.

Muirkirk Juveniles, in preparation for the opening of the 1993-94 season signed the following players:—J. Paton, T. Rae, W. Murray, D. Borthwick, D. Bradford, J. Bradford, R. Kirkwood, and J. Muir. They hope to re-instate T. Short, T. Wyllie, and L. Bell.

BURNING FATALITY (23rd April Issue)

Widespread sympathy has been expressed over a tragic burning accident on Sunday morning, when a nine-year-old girl sustained injuries from which she died a few hours later in Ballochmyle Hospital.

She was Isobel Robb, daughter of Mr and Mrs Archie Robb, Torhill, and she was living with Mr and Mrs John O'Neil at Garronhill while her mother was in Ballochmyle Hospital.

About 9.45 a.m., during the temporary absence of Mr and Mrs O'Neil, Isobel was writing in a notebook near the fire-place when her dress caught alight. She tried to extinguish the flames herself, but failing to do so, made for Mr W. McKay's next door.

Mrs Robert McCall, Old Bank, was opening a window in her own home when she noticed smoke at Mrs O'Neil's window and was surmising the cause when the girl rushed from the house in flames. Mrs McCall immediately ran across to assist, and with Mr McKay, managed to take off Isobel's burning garments and wrapped her in a blanket before phoning for medical assistance.

The girl was very badly burned, but was quite conscious and able to relate what happened. She was later conveyed to Ballochmyle Hospital, where she died in the early afternoon.

SUDDEN DEATH

We regret to record the sudden death of Police Sergeant John Clarkson, West Kilbride. Sgt. Clarkson was stationed at Muirkirk for about three years early in the War. The Sergeant had just recently been awarded a long-service medal, along with Constable David Gray of Muirkirk.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1953**BIRTHS**

- BARR.—At Kilmarnock on 12th May to Mr and Mrs T. Barrie (Janie Baillie); a son.
- SMITH.—At Forfar on 15th May to Mr and Mrs J. Smith (Helen Lawson); a daughter.
- MURDOCH.—At 16 Lapraik Avenue on 2nd June to Mr and Mrs Ronald Murdoch; a son.
- WILSON.—At Glasgow on 27th May to Mr and Mrs James Wilson; a son.
- MOLYNEAUX.—At Long Island on 30th May to Mr and Mrs William Molyneaux (Grace Loggie); a son.
- HILL.—At Irvine on 15th June to Mr and Mrs William Hill (Isabel Samson); a son.
- FREW.—At Irvine on 22nd August to Marion and Willie; a daughter.
- JAMIESON.—At Irvine on 6th September to Mr and Mrs A. Jamieson (Nancy Middleton); a son.
- TOWNSEND.—At Kilmarnock on 30th September to Mr and Mrs George Townsend, (Jenny Crawford); a son.
- TAYLOR.—At Kilmarnock on 9th October to Mr and Mrs Robert Taylor; a daughter.
- PARKER.—At Irvine on 12th October to Mr and Mrs Hugh Parker (Ann Goldie); a daughter.

MARRIAGES

- IVAN MUMME to MARGARET DAVIDSON on 17th January.
- JAMES GILLIES to AGNES PRENTICE on 27th February.
- WILLIAM THOMAS to MARGARET POTTINGER on 7th March.
- ALEXANDER CATHCART to JESSIE FORRESTER on 24th March.
- THOMAS McKENDRICK to SADIE FINDLAY on 19th March.
- DAVID STRICKLAND to JEANIE BROWN on 28th March.
- DAVIDVTOWLE to JEAN MENZIES on 5th June.
- THOMAS SCOTT to MARGARET LITTLE on 11th June.
- ALEXANDER McCARTNEY to NANCY ALSTON on 11th July.
- WILLIAM SAMSON to RHODA ANDERSON on 15th July.
- JAMES MENZIES to MARGARET JOHNSTONE on 8th August.
- HUGH ADAMS to MARGARET GOULDSTONE on 5th September.
- WILLIAM BONE to MARGARET PIRRIE on 11th September.
- ROBERT LAW to ISABELLA BAIN on 18th September.
- JOHN PEARSON to JANET LOGIE on 21st November.

DEATHS

- CLARK.—At Ballochmyle on 14th January, Mary Brown, aged 73 years; of 93 Main Street.
- GOLDIE.—At 4 Main Street on 9th January, John Goldie, aged 80 years.
- MILLS.—At 13 Pagan Walk on 9th January, Polly Whalley, aged 78 years.
- McINALLY.—At Torhill on 14th January, Ellen McInally, aged 89 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

- SMITH.—At Newmains, Glenbuck, on 3rd January, John Smith, aged 78 years.
- VALLANCE.—At Alloa on 9th January, David Vallance, aged 25 years (late of Crossflatt Cottage).
- WALLACE.—At 10 Furnace Road on 12th January, Elizabeth Brown, aged 69 years.
- COWAN.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd February, Elspeth Smith (of 32 Smallburn).
- LOGGIE.—At 5 Bridge Street on 7th February, Jeannie Ferguson.
- McMILLAN.—At Ayr on 10th February, Helen Cranston, aged 49 years (of 6 Lapraik Avenue).
- COWAN.—At Holmhead Hospital on 15th February, Thomas Cowan, aged 78 years.
- URQUHART.—At Glasgow on 13th February, William Urquhart.
- FLEMING.—On 21st February Jean Lamont, aged 56 years
- ALEXANDER.—At 75½ Main St., James Alexander, aged 81.
- SHIELDS.—At Birmingham on 9th March, Thomas Shields, aged 54 years.
- BROWN.—At Hairmyres on 25th March, William Brown, aged 71 years (of 6 Jubilee Row, Glenbuck).
- STEVEN.—At 53 Glasgow Road on 11th April, Robert Steven.
- GIBNEY.—At 17 Middlefield Drive on 19th April, Bernard Gibney, aged 74 years.
- ROBB.—As the result of an accident on 19th April, Isobel Robb, aged 9 years (of 12 Torhill).
- BELL.—At 19 Lapraik Avenue on 5th May, John Bell, aged 60 years,
- MITCHELL.—At Manchester on 8th May, Helen McBride, aged 85 years (late of 4 Midhouse Row).
- McWILLIAM.—At Troon on 6th May, James McMillan, aged 55 years.
- DA'PRATO.—At 19 Middlefield Drive on 26th May, Iolande Da'Prato, aged 67 years.
- CLARK.—At 93 Main Street on 28th May, John Clark, aged 78 years.
- FREW.—At Kames Colliery, the result of an accident, Andrew Frew, aged 31 years (of 65 Henderson Drive).
- WILSON.—At Doune on 1st June, Margaret Greenwood, aged 68 years.
- CAMPBELL.—At London on 3rd May, Wing Commander William Campbell (late of Heathfield, Muirkirk).
- EASTON.—At Manchester on 31st May, John Easton, aged 52 years.
- STITT.—At 16 Torhill on 4th June, William Stitt, aged 77 years.
- BUTTERFIELD.—In Canada on 1st June, Elizabeth Butterfield, aged 66 years.
- NICOL.—At 17 Hawkshaw Terrace on 12th June, James Nicol aged 82 years.
- FINDLAY.—On 28th June, Andrew Findlay, Joiner, 40 Main Street.
- STEVENSON.—At Montreal on 14th June, Andrew Stevenson, aged 74 year
- CAMPBELL.—In Brisbane on 12th July, Hugh Campbell, aged 75 years.
- HYSLOP.—At Kilmacolm on 22nd July, Robert Hyslop, aged 70 years (late of Smallburn).
- McKENZIE.—At 51 New Terrace on 28th July, Mary Crearie, aged 70 years.
- RATTRAY.—At 6 Kames Row on 26th July, Alexander Rattray, aged 69 years.
- BLACKWOOD.—At Girvan on 19th August, Archibald Blackwood.
- QUEEN.—At 16 Main Street on 15th August, Sarah Higgins, aged 58 years.
- WALLACE.—At Uphall Station on 7th August, Alexander Wallace (late of Glenbuck).
- HUNTER.—At 1 Miller Road on 23rd August, Thomasina Smith, aged 80 years.
- MITCHELL.—At Entryhead on 21st August, Maggie Murdoch, aged 55 years.
- QUEEN.—At Ballochmyle on 21st August, Elizabeth Higgins, aged 56 years (of 3 Stitt Place).
- BLACK.—At Glasgow on 4th September, Neil Black, aged 83 years.
- ALEXANDER.—At 57 Pagan Walk on 23rd September, Mary Baillie, aged 80 years.
- BONE.—At Ballochmyle on 28th September, Agnes McMurdo, aged 32 years (of 42 Garronhill).
- BONE.—At Forth on 3rd October, Margaret Bone, aged 73 years (late of Glenbuck).
- HENDERSON.—In Australia on 27th September, Jeannie Robb, aged 71 years.
- WALLACE.—At Ballochmyle on 13th October, George Wallace, aged 68 years.
- HOGG.—At Glasgow on 26th October, John Hogg, baker.
- MELIOR.—At 56 New Terrace on 26th October, John Melior, aged 76 years.
- SMITH.—At Jamestown on 25th October, Margaret Logie.
- HYSLOP.—At 36 Middlefield Drive, on 2nd November, Jeannie Hyslop.
- WHYTE.—At Manchester on 29th October, James Whyte.
- BARR.—At a hospital on 3rd November, Agnes Ross, aged 76 years.
- MALCOLM.—At Hurlford on 17th November, Robert Malcolm, aged 70 years.
- MOORE.—At Law Hospital on 17th November, Mary Robb, aged 58 years.
- WALLACE.—At Holmhead Hospital on 4th December, Margaret Wallace, aged 90 years (late of Glenbuck).
- MATTHEWS.—At 12 Wellwood Avenue on 25th December, Samuel C. Matthews, aged 62 years.

CHAPTER FORTY-SEVEN

(1954)

**REOPENING OF
MUIRKIRK PARISH CHURCH**

A most impressive ceremony, graced by a congregation of 450 worshippers, marked the re-opening and re-dedication of Muirkirk Parish Church on 2nd June. The church was ravished and badly gutted by a disastrous fire in January, 1949.

When the congregation had assembled, the main door of the Church was closed and then the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend Ernest D. Jarvis, D.D., knocked thrice on the door, saying: "Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go into them and I will praise the Lord." Mr James Auld, Session Clerk, thereupon opened the door from within, delivering the keys to the Moderator and inviting him to re-dedicate the Church. Along with the other officiating Ministers: Rev. W. H. Whalley, B.D., Moderator of the Presbytery of Ayr; Rev. John F. McCallum, M.A., Clerk to the Presbytery of Ayr; Rev. Johnstone R. McKay, B.D., Convener of Glasgow Presbytery's Youth Committee; the Moderator took his seat on the choir platform, while the Minister of the Church, Rev. Chris. Jack, ascended the steps to the pulpit.

In the centre area of the Church were the members of the Presbytery of Ayr and visiting clergy, who included Rev. C. Horn, formerly Minister at Glenbuck; Mr W. H. Martin, former Missionary at Kames; and the Rev. T. H. Adamson, and the members of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board. Also present for the occasion were many old friends and adherents from over a wide area, and conspicuous among whom were members of the family of the late Rev. John and Mrs Henderson, so long associated with the Church, and Rev. David Crosbie.

With Mr Fulton at the organ, and the choir leading the praise from the side pews, the service proceeded on simple,



THE CHURCH INTERIOR BEFORE THE FIRE

yet most impressive lines, the officiating Ministers performing their various duties with quiet dignity. Led by the Minister, the congregation, standing, made their confession of faith in the Apostles' Creed, while the congregation of Glenbuck, now united with the Parish of Muirkirk, were warmly welcomed by the Moderator of the Presbytery of Ayr.

In a homely, yet forceful ceremony, the Rev. Jarvis said he felt it a great privilege to be present at the re-opening of the Church, and he hoped the people of Muirkirk would find in it an excess of faith, courage, and love. It was set in the midst of the Covenanted country, where men had laid down their lives for their faith. With the story of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, as his theme, the Moderator emphasised that the newly restored Church stood for a faith that men had died for over a period of 2000 years, and for which they were still dying—a faith which might not have had any identity of its own but for the stoning of Stephen. The Church could not be killed by persecution—you could destroy a man but not an idea. In Scotland too much had been expected of the Ministers; now they were going to ask more from the people in the pews. It was up to Church folks to work and witness for the re-evangelisation of Scotland and prevent it from becoming a pagan country. Faith in God was the most precious thing any generation could pass on to the next.

After the re-dedication of the Church, the Moderator went on to dedicate the following furnishings:—

Lectern, gifted by the Urquhart Family in memory of their parents.

Hymn Board, gifted by the Henderson Family in memory of the Rev. John and Mrs Henderson.

Table vases, gifted by the 1st Muirkirk Boys' Brigade.

Pulpit Fall, gifted by the Choir;

while rededicated after destruction in the Church fire in January, 1949, were:—

Communion Pulpit Fall, gifted by Mr and Mrs R. Smith in memory of Nurse Jessie Hunter: and a

Table Lectern, gifted by Mr and Mrs H. Wilson in memory of Mr John Wilson.

At the close of the service the Ministers and Church officials filed in procession from the Church while the congregation sang a paraphrase.

THE RESTORATION

Truly the congregation of Muirkirk Parish can be proud of their Church, the restored interior of which is a delight to the eye, and our picture, reproduced by courtesy of Mr John Taylor, gives a fine idea of the great beauty of the Chancel, which is lined and adorned in light oak. Around the front of the gallery, oak panels also enhance its appearance. The stained glass windows above the pulpit were taken from Kames Church, and a good deal of the seating also came from Kames. The organ, which is situated at gallery level in the right hand corner of the Chancel, was brought from the old Free Church at Glasgow Road. The old Choir "box" has given way to a low platform, the lighting arrangements leave nothing to be desired, footrests and heaters in every pew provide a pleasant degree of comfort, and the whole layout is very pleasing indeed and a credit to the architect and all who laboured in one way or another to make the restoration possible.

By building an annexe, great improvements have been effected in the ante-room accommodation, where there are now separate rooms for the Minister, Choir, Session, etc., with adequate toilet facilities.

SUNDAY SERVICES

The morning service on Sunday was taken by the Rev. Professor Ian Henderson, BD, Professor of Systematic Theology

at the University of Glasgow. In the evening the Rev. Chris. Jack conducted a service of praise at which the Church Choir, under Mr William Fulton, rendered the Sacred Cantata "The Rolling Seasons" with good effect. The solo passages, etc., were taken by Mrs H. Adams, Mrs R. K. Wilson, Mrs W. Fulton, Miss Basilia Logie, Miss Elizabeth Fulton, Miss Isabel Blyth, Miss Elizabeth Logie, and Messrs W. Hunter, R. K. Wilson, and Wilson Barrie. There were large congregations at both services.

CLOSING OF GLENBUCK CHURCH

(From the 27th May Issue)

Sunday last was a day I shall not readily forget. I visited my native village of Glenbuck to attend the closing divine service in Glenbuck Church. The service was conducted by the Rev. C. Horn, the last Minister of the Church, and the Rev. Chris Jack of Muirkirk Parish Church, who has conducted the services at Glenbuck since the Rev. C. Horn left to take over Lawers Church. There was a large congregation of previous members of the Church—some from New York, Melbourne, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Motherwell, Cumnock, Muirkirk, Douglas, Douglas Water, and Glenbuck.

Mr Horn gave a most interesting address, and spoke of the happy times he had spent amongst the congregation in Glenbuck. He then asked the Rev. Chris. Jack to accept the Glenbuck congregation as members of Muirkirk Church.

To me it was a moving ceremony. As I sat in my pew of the little Church, visions of the past flooded my memory. I recalled by boyhood days as a Sabbath School scholar in the old Church, which was opened for public worship on 16th July, 1882, a few years before I was born. I thought of the gentlemen who had ministered in the Church since then:—The late Rev. John Wallace, the late Rev. Colin A. McKenzie, the Rev. David Baird, and the Rev. C. Horn. I recalled the children's soirees; the magic lantern pictures, shown by the late Mr Archie Young, Muirkirk, and the cantatas by the Church Choir, under the conductorship of the late Mr Andrew Tait. I also recalled many of the worshippers who used to attend the Church, most of whom, I regret to say, have now passed on.

I was proud to be present at such a service, yet I felt sad to see the door of the old Church closed for the last session of worship.

At the same time it was a pleasure to meet old friends and Sabbath School companions whom I had not seen for many years, and who, like myself, had returned to pay their last respects to the old Church.

Altogether it was a most impressive service. The praise list was suitably chosen, and the large congregation joined heartily in the singing. The Rev. C. Horn thanked the office-bearers and congregation for the loyal support given him during his six years as Minister of Glenbuck Church. He paid special tribute to the organist, Mr Bert Davidson, for his excellent service.

At the close of the service, Mr Horn shook hands with each member of the congregation as they left the Church for the last time.

Well might the psalmist say:—

*"I love Thy Church, O God.
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy Hand."*

JAS. D. DAVIDSON

Douglas Water.

SEEN AND HEARD

At the Juniors' Coal Queen Dance, Sadie Menzies was chosen as Muirkirk's 1954 representative.

Three bus loads of youngsters visited a matinee at the Empire Theatre, Glasgow, to see their idols of the Western films in real life. They were film star Roy Rogers, his wife Dale Evans, and his famous horse, Trigger.

Nurse Short left Muirkirk after 7 and a half years' service.

The death was announced of Mr George Muir, who was for many years the Cemetery Superintendent.

Mr Thomas Thomson, shepherd at Blackside, was presented with the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society's long service medal.

The 150th anniversary of Muirkirk Preceptory of the Order of the Temple was marked by a service in the Church Hall, Glasgow Road. Muirkirk is reputed to be the oldest Preceptory in the world.

Lambie & Moorhead opened a joinery business at 108 Smallburn.

The Dux of Muirkirk J.S. School was Josephine C. Miller.

David McLatchie won the boys' sports championship, while the girls' honour went to Ann Blyth.

In July the Boys' Brigade Camp was held at Eyemouth.

Forty members of Muirkirk Golf Club enjoyed their annual day out at Prestwick Old Course.

Constable David Gray, who has been stationed at Muirkirk for the past ten years, has been transferred to Ardeer. His place will be taken by Constable James Boyd from Irvine.

Mr J. S. Cornock, manager at Muirkirk Gas Works for the past four years, has been transferred to Haddington. His place at Muirkirk has been filled by Mr Alex. Hastings, from Troon.

There was an influx of visitors to Glenbuck in October—about 200 swans arrived at the Loch.

The death was announced in October of Mr John Rodger at his home in Prestwick. Mr Rodger was Headmaster at Glenbuck School from 1889 till he retired in 1927. He was 90 years of age.

Muirkirk's oldest inhabitant, Miss Elizabeth Pearson, Crofthead, died aged 96 years.

Mrs Margaret Frew, whose husband, Andrew, was killed in Kames Colliery in 1953, was awarded damages totalling £2,500 against the National Coal Board.

Nurse Callan, who had been a very popular personality in the village for some years, left to take up a similar appointment at Dundonald.

Margaret Matthews graduated M.A. at Glasgow University.

After three years Mr D. Malcolm is leaving the Crown Bar to take over The Castle Bar in Kilmarnock. Mr Russell Crosbie will be his successor.

In December Mr James Pringle resumed his hairdressing business following his spell of National Service.

Our local restaurateur, Mr N. Da'Prato, died at the age of 74 years. Mr Da'Prato will be well remembered for his fish and chips.

LAST RE-UNION

The final re-union of Glenbuck Old Folks took place in the Village Hall in March, when the Chairperson for the evening was Mrs Marion Hynds, Douglas Water, a native of Glenbuck, and sister of the brothers Knox of football fame.

LOCAL INSTITUTES

Great concern was being expressed locally about the future of two of the hubs of local recreation in the form of the Ironworks Institute and the Baird Institute. Both these establishments had come to the crossroads which will decide if they are to continue functioning as such.

At a second special general meeting of the Baird Institute in April the position was fully discussed, but in the end it was unanimously decided to return the title to the superior at the end of the current year, as from which date the Institute would cease to function in its present capacity. So far as saving the building was concerned, there was one ray of hope. Two representatives of the Scottish Youth Hostels Association inspected the building the same evening, and hinted that there might be a possibility of the S.Y.H.A. taking over the building.

It was the same story at Southside, but there has hope for the Ironworks Institute. The building was to be taken over by the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation, and hopefully restored to its former glory. Indeed, work started in October with the renovation and the building will be developed as a Community Centre.

“HOPALONG”

The younger fry of the village had a thrill on two days during July when film star, William Boyd, “Hopalong” of many a Western thriller, and his party of boy guests being entertained under “Operation Friendship,” passed through the village. As well as seeing their hero, some lucky youngsters got money gifts which he threw from his car.

THE LATE DAVID HENDRY

Muirkirkers at home and many places all over the world will learn with regret of the passing of Pipe-Major David Hendry, who died after a long illness at his home at 2 Garronhill on 20th August, at the age of 60 years. A piper of considerable talent, Davie started his career in the Southside Pipe Band, and during the First World War was a member of the band of the 1/5 R.S.F. He won a number of awards in the solo piping field, and later, when he took over as Pipe-Major of the Southside Band, this combination also won prizes on the contest field. Many individual pipers owed much of their skill to Davie's patient teaching, and in more recent years his work in bringing forward the 1st Muirkirk B.B. Pipe Band is well known to all. A pleasant personality at all times, Davie Hendry was well respected in our midst, and, stricken with a lingering illness, he bore his misfortune with a patience and fortitude characteristic of the man.

INTERESTING FIND

While at work at Aird's Moss recently a drainer unearthed a pony's off hind shoe, buried about three feet down in the moss. From the type and condition of the shoe it is reckoned that it must be about three hundred years old, and maybe older. A road passed over this part of the Moss during the Covenanted period.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT

In September a distressing accident took place at the sand quarry at the side of the railway about two miles from Muirkirk on the Lanark side of the Station.

John Palmer, 11-year-old eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. Palmer, 76 Henderson Drive, lost his life as the result of being crushed between the end of a railway wagon and an overhead loading ramp.

DEATH OF MILKMAN

Our agricultural community has lost a well-known figure through the death of Mr Duncan McCallum, who farmed Linburn on the Greenock Water for many years. Many of our readers will recall other days when Mr McCallum had a daily milk run throughout the district, and through which he became well known to the villagers. He was 76 years of age.

PIT MANAGER FINED

The five-day trial of three N.C.B. officials from Muirkirk, as a result of a fatal accident at Kames Colliery on 27th May, 1953, ended on Thursday last at Ayr Sheriff Court. Sheriff W. Clark Reid fined Frederick Wilson, former manager of the Colliery, £15, with the option of sixty days' imprisonment, for failing to take the prescribed precautions when an underground working was approaching disused workings. Peter Milligan, colliery agent, was found not guilty, and the charge against David Black Hill, under-manager, was found not proven.

A LINK WITH THE PAST

Another link with old Muirkirk has been severed, and with the re-opening of the Church only a few months away, Muirkirkers at home and away will learn with regret of the passing on 25th January at Dumfries of the Mrs Ina Henderson, wife of the late Rev. John Henderson, B.D., of Muirkirk Parish Church. During Mr Henderson's long and notable sojourn at Muirkirk from 1910 till his death at the beginning of 1946, Mrs Henderson's grace and charm made a visit to the Manse a pleasure, and in her quiet way she helped along the good work over the years and formed a wide and devoted circle of friends. After her husband's death she went to live at Dumfries, but retained a lively interest in Muirkirk and her friends here. The funeral took place to Muirkirk cemetery on Monday, and was conducted by the Rev. Chris. Jack.

FOOTBALL (Season 1953-54)

John Cleland signed for Muirkirk in 1953 and scored a hat-trick in the opening 4-3 win over Talbot, but the Juniors again fell at the first hurdle in the “Scottish,” although it took two replays before Shotts Bon Accord finally won 2—1 at Lesmahagow. The Muirkirk team was:—McCafferty; Connell, Hughes; McDowall, Torbett, Haugh; Hanlon, McLeod, Cleland, Dagastino, Muir.

In the West of Scotland Cup Muirkirk beat Benburb 3—0, but in the second round went out to Rutherglen 3—1.

In the Ayrshire Cup semi-final they lost 1—0 to Troon, and in the Moore Trophy semi-final they went down badly by 3—0 to Cumnock.

Once again they challenged in the League for a time but fell away towards the end.

The Western League at that time consisted of the following teams:—

Lugar	Muirkirk	Glenafton	Ayr Newton
Cumnock	Kello Rovers	Nithsdale	Maybole
Auchinleck	Craigmark	Whitlets	Kilmarnock.
Annbank	Darvel	Hurlford	

Muirkirk Juveniles had an up and down season. They lost 6—2 to Kay Rovers in the final of the League Cup. Then in the final of the Ross Cup they drew 1—1 with Coylton.

Unfortunately nothing further was reported about the replay. The Muirkirk team was:—Bradford; Bennie, Short; J. Bell, Muir, L. Bell; Rae, Walker, Wyllie, Bain, Campbell.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1954**BIRTHS**

- BARR.—At Irvine on 28th March, to Agnes and Alex. Barr (McLaren); a son.
- CUMMING.—At Carluke on 3rd April to Mr and Mrs John Cumming (Jane Bone); a daughter.
- TAYLOR.—At Irvine on 2nd May to Mr and Mrs John Taylor (Madge Logie); a son.
- WILSON.—At Irvine on 6th May to Mr and Mrs R. Wilson (Etta Parker); a daughter.
- BRADFORD.—At Bridge-of-Allan on 12th July to Mr and Mrs Robert Bradford (Mary McSkimming); a son.
- JOHNSTONE.—At Irvine on 31st July to Mr and Mrs S. Johnstone (Maisie Gilfillan); a son.
- NIMMO.—At Hamilton to Mr and Mrs George Nimmo (Margaret Barr); a son.
- LAW.—At Kilmarnock on 2nd October to Mr and Mrs Robert Law (Isabelle Bain); a daughter.
- DICKSON.—At Irvine on 23rd October to Mr and Mrs Thomas Dickson (Betty White); a daughter.
- O'NEIL.—At Nuneaton on 27th November to Johnny and Theresa (Rattray); a daughter.
- ALEXANDER.—At Johnstone on 13th December to Mr and Mrs George Alexander; a son.

MARRIAGES

- JAMES DAVIDSON to AGNES JOHNSTONE on 2nd January.
- GEORGE ALEXANDER to HELEN HYSLOP on 28th January.
- JAMES WYLIE to ISABEL STRICKLAND on 29th January.
- MATTHEW SIMPSON to MARGARET SEMPLE on 25th February.
- ALEX. DEMPSTER to MARGARET BONE on 12th March.
- ROBERT STRICKLAND to FLORA DUNCAN on 12th March.
- JOHN BUTLER to ELIZABETH LITTLE on 3rd April.
- THOMAS DRIFE to HELEN STRICKLAND on 3rd April.
- RALPH ROWE to EDNA CONNING on 30th March.
- SYDNEY SNAPE to HELEN BONE on 20th March.
- CHARLES BELL to ANN SHAW on 17th April.
- ROBERT McBRIDE to MARIE WEIGHTMAN on 26th March.
- JAMES MACDONALD to ELIZABETH MACKIN on 17th July.
- ROBERT BICKERTON to DONALDO MACLEAN on 31st July.
- JOHN McGREGOR to MARGARET LIVINGSTONE on 21st August.
- ALEXANDER CLARK to JEAN STEWART on 27th August.
- ALIDEO DA'PRATO to ISOBEL McSPORRAN on 17th Sep.
- JAMES MORAN to BRIDGET O'BRIEN on 25th September.

DEATHS

- FOSTER.—At Ayr on 1st January, David Foster, aged 20 months; of 37 Henderson Drive
- HAMILTON.—At Glespin on 7th January, Sarah McCulloch, aged 74 years.
- WILLIAMSON.—At 16 Midhouse Row on 1st January, Janet Murdoch.
- CALDOW.—At Lochmaben on 26th January, David Caldow, aged 62 years; late of Douglas Place.
- RICHMOND.—At Ayr on 14th January, Agnes Adamson.
- ANGUS.—At 60 Main Street on 1st February, Margaret Milligan.
- GREENWOOD.—At Dalrymple on 14th February, Mrs Greenwood, aged 83 years (late of 11 Park Terrace).
- DILLON.—At 52 Main Street on 22nd February, Michael Dillon, aged 75 years.
- KENNEDY.—In Toronto on 11th January, John Kennedy.
- MILLER.—At 27 Kames Row on 19th February, Margaret Little, aged 80 years.
- MONAGHAN.—On 22nd February, Patrick Monaghan, aged 55 years; late of Muirkirk.
- NEIL.—At Ballochmyle on 15th March, Isabella Samson, aged 50 years.
- SEMPLÉ.—At Tardoes Farm on 20th March, Thomas Semple, aged 80 years.
- KERR.—At Prestwick on 28th March, Elizabeth Kerr, aged 90 years (late of Glenbuck).
- PATON.—At 9 Pagan Walk on 27th March, Annie Paton, aged 74 years.
- GOLDIE.—At 64 Main Street on 3rd April, George Goldie, aged 75 years.
- HOGG.—At 39 Henderson Drive on 8th April, Janet Dalziel.
- McCLYMONT.—At Kirkburnhead on 7th April, Hannah McClymont.
- BROWN.—At 35 Middlefield Drive on 28th April, Margaret Dewar, aged 72 years.
- PALMER.—At 48 Glasgow Road on 22nd April, Margaret Lapping, aged 62 years.
- ROBB.—At Kilbirnie on 8th May, Thomas Robb.
- DORNAN.—At New York on 24th April, Robert Dornan, aged 62 years
- BRADFORD.—At 1 Hareshaw Crescent on 28th May, Rachel Manley, aged 44 years.
- STRATHEARN.—At 139 Main Street on 31st May, Thomas Strathearn, aged 72 years.
- MARSHALL.—At Ballochmyle on 13th June, Forbes Marshall, aged 47 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At 34 Colthart Drive on 19th June, Andrew Davidson, aged 76 years.
- CURRIE.—At Stonehouse on 24th June, James Currie, aged 65 years.
- HENDRY.—At 2 Garronhill on 20th August, David Hendry, aged 60 years.
- SLIMMON.—At 74 Henderson Drive on 22nd August, Annie Gilmour, aged 77 years.

DEATHS (continued)

HAZLE.—At Burnbrae Cottage on 30th August, Douglas Hazle, aged 48 years.

PALMER.—Accidentally killed on 4th September, John Palmer, aged 11 years; of 76 Henderson Drive.

LESLIE.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd September, Thomas Leslie, aged 82 years.

TURNBULL.—At 22 Hawkshaw Terrace on 22nd September, Marion Joyce, aged 71 years.

McCALLUM.—At Linburn Farm on 10th October, Duncan McCallum, aged 76 years.

PARK.—At 51 Henderson Drive on 15th October, James Park, aged 46 years.

SPENCE.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd October, John Spence, aged 59 years.

FORBES.—At Rhode Island, U.S.A., on 23rd October, Joan Forbes, aged 84 years.

SAMSON.—At Liverpool on 24th October, Hugh Samson.

JOHNSTONE.—At Bellshill on 16th November, William Johnstone.

PEARSON.—At Crofthead on 12th November, Elizabeth Pearson, aged 96 years.

WOOD.—At "Inglewood," Wellwood Street, on 20th November Catherine Dougal, aged 86 years.

ROBERTSON.—At New Cumnock on 30th November, Hugh Robertson, aged 32 years.

ROGERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 21st November, Elizabeth Montgomery, aged 61 years.

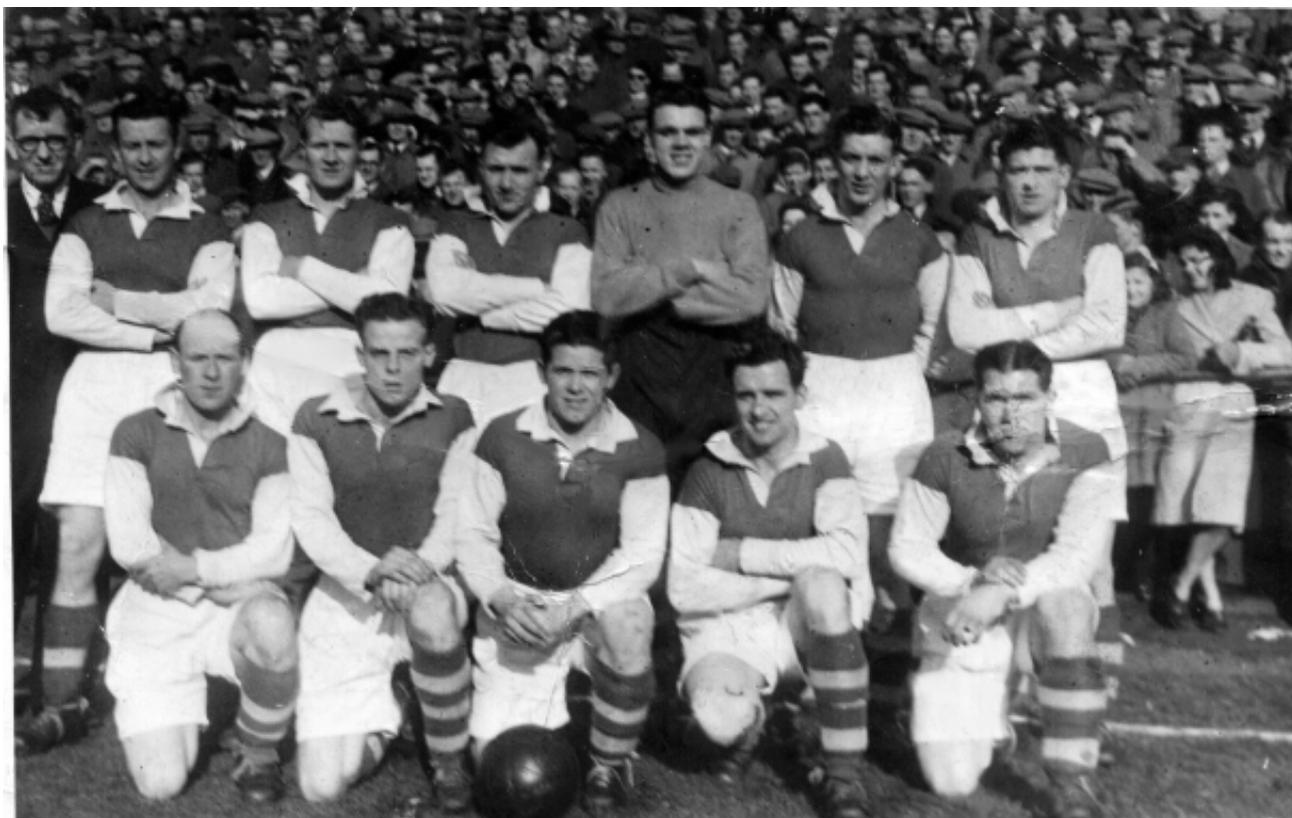
DALZIEL.—At 50 Colthart Drive on 16th December, James Dalziel, aged 62 years.

BAIN.—At Ballochmyle on 23rd December, Thomas Bain, aged 62 years.

DA'PRATO.—At 19 Middlefield Drive on 26th December, Nello Da'Prato, aged 74 years.

SANDERSON.—At Edinburgh on 19th December, Jane Bone (late of Glenbuck).

MUIRKIRK JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM WHO PLAYED AGAINST CAMBUSLANG RANGERS
AT LESMAHAGOW IN THE SCOTTISH CUP IN 1949



BACK ROW—Kinnaird, Mair, Highet, Mackin, McAtee, Stillie
FRONT ROW—Ballantyne, Steele, Inglis, Freckleton, McIntosh

CHAPTER FORTY-EIGHT

(1955)

DISASTROUS FIRE AT OLD TERRACE

A disastrous fire occurred at Old Terrace on Thursday, 17th February. The outbreak originated at No. 5, occupied by Mr and Mrs Harry Gaw, and it was Mrs Gaw who, with her two children had been visiting her mother, opened the door about 7.30 p.m. to find her home in flames. The alarm was quickly given and fire brigades from Ayr, Kilmarnock, Cumnock and Mauchline as well as the local unit, raced through wintry conditions to tackle the blaze. There were difficulties with a frozen hydrant and hose, but these were overcome, and it is to the credit of the fire-fighters that the blaze was under control in about two hours.

There was a rush to evacuate the other adjoining houses before the conflagration spread. Nos. 4 and 6 were untenanted, but in No. 5, 73-year-old Mrs Ethel Logie, who lived with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr and Mrs Peter Wyper, was getting her little 10-year-old daughter ready for bed when the alarm was raised. Their house, too, was destroyed. No. 8 was empty, but in No. 9 Mr William Soddart, who lives with his son and daughter, had also to be evacuated, as also had Mr and Mrs James McDonald and their family of three in No. 3. Nos. 3 and 5 were rendered untenable by smoke and water, and the others were burned. Mrs McDonald was at the pictures when she was told of the fire, and rushed home to find some of her furniture had been rescued by the firemen and neighbours.

Some of the other elderly neighbours further up the row were removed to safety as a precaution, but fortunately the fire was confined between Nos. 3 and 9.

The Gaw family lost everything, and Mr Gaw was at work underground at Kames Colliery when he received a telephone message and immediately came to the surface and made for home.

Furniture and belongings rescued were removed to the Ironworks Institute and the homeless families were accommodated by relatives and friends.

The Old Terrace, which was on the condemned list, consisted of 26 houses, 10 of which were still occupied when the fire took place.

Our County Councillor, Mr G. M. Bain, got into action immediately and by Friday night was able to inform the four families affected that they would get the keys of new houses at the Smallburn Housing Scheme on Monday morning. Workmen worked overtime at the week-end to get these houses ready.

A Relief Committee was formed, and it was agreed to appeal to the public for their generous support to a relief fund and to organise a door-to-door collection throughout the district, and also to hold functions to further augment the Fund.

DANCING SUCCESS

When Mr Len Loneskie, football stalwart of Auchinleck Talbot F.C., chose a Muirkirk lass (Betty Gray) for his bride, he got two new interests. The second was ballroom dancing, and Len entered into his practice to some purpose.

Betty, of course, was an accomplished dancer, and that their enthusiasm and practice has been successful was demonstrated at Hamilton, when they were one of two couples chosen to go forward to the finals of the Scottish Amateur Ballroom Dancing Championships at St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow.

SEEN AND HEARD

Mr John H. Colthart, J.P., a former Muirkirk County Councillor retired as Deputy Labour Director of the National Coal Board, a position he had held since 1948.

Colstoun Estates Co. agreed to grant the necessary Minute of Waiver to permit of Carruthers Park being used for housing purposes.

Mr Bernard McDade was the guest chairman at Muirkirk Old Folks' Re-union.

Miss Jean C. Brown opened a shop at 105 Main Street, selling, Baby Linen, Wool, China, etc.

The Scottish Youth Hostel Association have decided that they are no longer interested in the Baird Institute.

Muirkirk man, Rev. David Crosbie, was the Inspecting Officer at the B.B. Display.

Mr and Mrs W. Lindsay, 26 Hawkshaw Terrace, celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 29th March.

Mr R. J. Bradford retired after 25 years' service to Muirkirk Angling Association in the capacity of President.

Electricity was introduced to houses in Park Terrace, Springhill Terrace and Kames Row in March.

Muirkirk Co-operative Society Ltd. opened their new shops at Pagan Walk in June.

The boys' sports champion at Muirkirk J.S. School was Adam Murdoch, while the girls' honour went to Helen Samson.

Roy Rutherford was the 1965 Dux of Furnace Road School.

At the Co-operative Gala, Susan Higgins was crowned Gala Queen.

In July David Muir opened his Cafe at Pagan Walk.

The Boys' Brigade annual camp has held at Spittal.

A Well-known Muirkirk couple, Mr and Mrs James Blackwood, celebrated their Diamond Wedding in Canada. The couple emigrated to Vancouver in 1911.

Mr William Baillie, Catcheyburn, retired as foreman blacksmith at Kames Colliery.

AYRSHIRE ESTATES

In a list of inventories lodged with the Sheriff Clerk at Ayr are the following (the figures representing net estate, heritable and movable, after deduction of debt):—

John Trotter, J.P., New Cumnock	£20,399
William H. Rowe, haulage contractor	£8,554
John Moffat, retired farmer	£7,950

UNIQUE BAPTISM

Possibly the first baptism at Ballochmyle Hospital took place at the regular church service on 10th April. Rev. John Heron conducted the service and the Rev. Chris. Jack was present to baptise Rosemary Gibney Campbell, the infant daughter of Mr and Mrs John Campbell, Muirkirk. John Campbell sustained a serious back injury at Kames Colliery some time ago, and is a patient at the hospital.

DIAL 999

As the result of an extension to the automatic telephone exchange plant, the "999" Emergency Scheme is now available in Muirkirk. In an emergency callers can now dial 999 and get immediate precedence for fire, police or ambulance.

COLLIERY FATALITY

The death was reported of Dugald Gibb, one of the two workers involved in an accident at Kames Colliery Pithead recently, and who passed away at Ballochmyle Hospital. Dugald, who resided at 16 Garronhill, was a married man with one child, and was only 25 years of age. Along with John Vallance, Crossflatt, he was injured at the pithead hoist. Mr Vallance sustained a broken arm and facial injuries, while Mr Gibb was severely crushed.

KILLED IN BLACKPOOL

A Muirkirk woman, Mrs William Humphreys (Lilias B. Ross) lost her life as the result of a distressing accident at Poulton, near Blackpool on 25th September. She had left her car to gather brambles and was crossing the road when knocked down by a car. Mrs Humphreys lived in Glasgow and was a member of the well known Ross family here in Muirkirk.

RETIRAL

Mr James McCartney, Wellwood Street, retired after over thirty years service with the Ayrshire Education Committee. He took up the duties of Janitor at Muirkirk School in 1922, and also acted in the capacity of attendance office and Gym instructor, and in 1950 he became District Attendance Officer.

Mr McCartney took a great interest in the youth of the village and was Captain of the Boys' Brigade for some years. Football fans will also remember his work with the local schoolboy football team, which he coached for some time, and under his guidance they had some remarkable seasons, including seven successes in the League Championship. A number of cups came to Muirkirk during those days, and in one season alone the School team brought no fewer than five trophies to Muirkirk. See Page 210.

MUIRKIRK CYCLING AND ATHLETIC CLUB

At the annual general meeting of this very forward-looking Club the officials were elected as follows;—

- Hon. President Mr John McKay
- President Mr George H. Gillen
- Secretary Mr James Taylor
- Race Secretary Mr James Pringle
- Treasurer Mr James White
- Trainer and Coach Mr Hugh Bell

PUBLIC LIBRARY

With the removal of the caretaker and the closing of the Baird Institute, the public library is now being accommodated in Muirkirk J. S. School.

OBITUARY

The death was announced of a well-known Muirkirk man, Mr John Moffat, who died at Prestwick, aged 87 years. Born at Burnfoot Farm, Muirkirk, Mr Moffat spent his entire working life in the agricultural industry, and occupied Kames Farm for many years before retiring 30 years ago. For 25 years he lived in the village, but moved to Prestwick five years ago.

Mr Moffat served for a number of years on the former Muirkirk Parish Council, and he was prominent in local bowling and curling circles. He was a past President of Muirkirk Bowling Club, and was a member of the rink skipped by the late Mr Hugh Bell, whose prowess earned them the sobriquet of "The Big Four."

FOOTBALL (Season 1954-55)

A mediocre season so far as Muirkirk Juniors were concerned. In the first round of the Scottish Cup they lost 3—1 to Lugar Boswell Thistle after a 3—3 draw. The team was:—Murray; Connell, Dagostino; Smith, Riley, Haugh; Dolan, Ferrier, Barton, McDowall, Clark.

Muirkirk's talented right-winger, Tommy Hanlon signed for Raith Rovers.

In the 1st round of the West of Scotland Cup Muirkirk were thrashed 4—0 by Port Glasgow, and in the semi-final of the Moore Trophy they went down 3—2 to Annbank after a 1—1 draw.

In the Ayrshire Consolation Cup Muirkirk beat Annbank 2—0 in the semi-final, and in the final they drew 1—1 with Kello Rovers. But there was a strange twist to this match. Glenafton Athletic had protested against Kello Rovers in the semi-final, and this was upheld by the Ayrshire F.A. The game had to be replayed at the beginning of the new season, when Glens won. So Muirkirk were in the same final for the second time, only to go down 3—1 to Glenafton. The Muirkirk team was:—Gibson; Connell, Dagostino; Loneskie, McGeoch, Johnstone; Malone, Piper, Bell, Cassidy, Stevens.

With no Juvenile football in Ayrshire, Muirkirk Juveniles had joined the Lanarkshire League, and had an encouraging season, playing the following teams:—Carstairs, Kirkmuirhill, Law Hearts, Ashgill Hearts, Larkhall United, Birkenshaw United, Coalburn Welfare, Douglas Water Primrose, and Carluke. Playing for the Juveniles that season were:—Gardiner; Rankin, Muir; Rae, Clark, Bell; Campbell, Alexander, Thom, Bain, Mitchell.

The Muirkirk J.S. School football team fared much better and reached the sixth round of the Intermediate Shield competition, only to lose at Musselburgh. The team was:—McMorran; Parker, Wallace; Ross, Murdoch, McLatchie; McMillan, Park, Burns, Johnstone, Davidson. Nevertheless the team had a great season, and after a charity match at Ladeside Park in April, Mr Rowan, President of the Cumnock Area Schools Association, presented the League Cup to Adam Murdoch, Captain of the Muirkirk team, who had won the trophy this season, and thereafter the boys toured the vicinity on a lorry proudly displaying their trophy.

DEATH OF LOCAL BUSINESSMAN

A well-known Muirkirk businessman, Mr William H. Rowe, died at his home at Smithfield, Main Street, on 28th January, aged 63 years. Although Mr Rowe had been under medical care for some time, the end came with startling suddenness, for he had been out and about as usual, and had taken part in a bridge match only the previous evening.

Mr Rowe was the principal of the firm of W. H. Rowe & Son, Carriers and Contractors, whose long distance transports convey goods, implements, livestock to all parts of Scotland, England, and Wales. Mr Rowe was especially well-known in agricultural circles in the West of Scotland, and was invariably in the Farmers' bridge team in local matches.

BOY'S ARM BROKEN

At Ladeside Park a Port Glasgow supporter pushed 11-year-old George Davidson, of 41 Pagan Walk, off the sleeper fence, breaking the boy's arm.

The 17-year-old Glasgow supporter was fined £10 for the assault.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1955**BIRTHS**

MURRAY.—To Mr and Mrs William Murray (Catherine Rennie) on 18th May; a son.
 MACKAY.—At Irvine on 16th June to Mr and Mrs William Mackay (Margaret Haugh); a daughter.
 BRADFORD.—At Stenhousemuir on 18th June to Mr and Mrs Robert Bradford; a son.
 NICOLL.—At Broughty Ferry on 10th July to Mr and Mrs Gorrie Nicoll (Isobel Robertson); a daughter.
 BROWN.—At Northampton on 12th July to Mr and Mrs J. A. Brown (Jean Findlay); a son.
 HALL.—At Glasgow on 9th October to Mr and Mrs T. Hall (May McBride); a son.

MARRIAGES

ROBERT LENNOX to MARGARET MONTGOMERY on 8th January.
 DANIEL COOK to MARY HENDERSON on 15th January
 WILLIAM FLOYD to BARBARA PARR on 22nd January.
 ROBERT NORMANTON to ISOBEL BELL on 29th December.
 WILLIAM SAMSON to MARTHA BAILLIE on 19th February.
 JAMES GIBSON to ELIZABETH DICKSON on 5th March.
 ALEX. HERRIOT to HANNAH IRVINE on 18th March.

JOHN CORBETT to IVY LOGIE on 23rd April.
 DAVID DAVIES to ISA THOMSON on 9th July.
 ANDREW CROSBIE to JEAN MACGREGOR on 15th July.
 ANDREW BARRIE to JEAN BONE on 3rd September.
 JAMES PRINGLE to MARY STEVEN on 12th October.
 LARS WALLIN to JEAN ROWE on 29th October.
 JAMES HILL to MARGARET BURNS on 29th October.

DEATHS

DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle on 4th January, George Davidson, aged 83 years, of 5 Meanlour Drive.
 CLARK.—At Broxburn on 3rd January, Allan Clark (baker), aged 78 years; late of Muirkirk.
 MURRAY.—At Railway Buildings, Southside, on 6th January, Rebecca Cannon, aged 45 years.
 DA'PRATO. — At Ballochmyle on 13th January, Alex. Da'Prato.
 McLATCHIE.—At Torhill on 12th January, David McLatchie, aged 69 years.
 MURRAY.—At 6 Middlefield Drive on 14th January, Agnes Murray, aged 54 years.
 GRAHAM.—At Ballochmyle on 24th January, Margaret Graham, aged 16 years (of Station House, Muirkirk).
 McLATCHIE.—At Ballochmyle on 23rd January, Agnes Forgie, aged 62 years (of Torhill).

The Famous Muirkirk H.G. School Football Team of Season 1932-33

**BACK ROW:**

T. Brown, T. Dempster, W. Dodds, T. Wallace, J. Walker, W. Hogg

FRONT ROW:

J. Loggie, C. Wilson, J. Hodge (Captain), J. McCartney (Trainer), T. Hazel, W. Boland, G. Bradford

DEATHS (Continued)

GRIEVE.—At London on 18th January, Rebecca Grieve, aged 59 years (late of Muirkirk).

HAZLE.—At Ballochmyle on 29th January, Jessie Clowes (of Wellwood Crescent, Muirkirk).

LAW.—At Edinburgh on 31st January, Christina Scott.

ROWE.—At Smithfield, Main Street, on 28th January, William H. Rowe, aged 63 years.

KIRKWOOD.—At 20 Wellwood Avenue on 7th February, David Kirkwood, aged 68 years.

GIBSON.—At Ballochmyle on 23rd February, John Gibson, aged 65 years (of 24 Furnace Road).

MENZIES.—At 18 Lapraik Avenue on 25th February, Annie McKenna, aged 31 years.

McCRORIE.—At 51 Garronhill on 9th March, James McCrorie, aged 70 years.

PARK.—At Holmhead on 23rd March, Elizabeth McEwan, aged 76 years.

SMITH.—At London on 25th March, Mary McCall, aged 72 years.

GARDINER.—At March House on 7th April, Mary Bryce, aged 84 years.

HUGHES.—At Ballochmyle on 6th April, Elizabeth Hughes, aged 68 years (of 22 Old Terrace).

RANKIN.—At Ballochmyle on 11th April, Agnes Cannon, aged 47 years.

TORBETT.—At Dunlop on 11th April, Jean Johnstone (late of Smallburn).

McGARRITY.—At 25 Shawknowe Avenue on 20th April, Mary McGarrity, aged 59 years.

SHAW.—At Girvan on 16th April, Alex. Shaw, aged 81 years.

GEbbie.—At Luton on 22nd April, Jenny Loudon.

MILLAR.—At 29 Middlefield Drive on 2nd May, Andrew Millar, aged 68 years.

McMILLAN.—At Holmhead on 24th May, William McMillan, aged 81 years (of 27 Middlefield Drive).

STYLES.—At Bridge of Earn on 20th May, Catherine Archibald.

McDADE.—At Ballochmyle on 27th May, Bernard McDade, aged 64 years (of 10 Henderson Drive).

MOFFAT.—At Prestwick on 24th May, John Moffat, aged 87 years (late of Kames Farm).

THOMSON.—At Ohio on 1st June, John Thomson, aged 65 years.

BENNIE.—At 33 Middlefield Drive on 3rd July, Martha Montgomery, aged 54 years.

HOGG.—At Glasgow on 4th July, Margaret Anderson, wife of the late John Hogg.

BARRIE.—At Ballochmyle on 15th July, Annie Stirling, aged 41 years.

SAMSON.—At Glasgow on 22nd July, Richard Samson, aged 37 years (of 61 Henderson Dreive)

SHIELDS.—At Ayr on 11th July, Agnes Kerr, aged 78 years.

DOCHERTY.—At Airdsmill on 28th July, James Docherty, aged 66 years.

FERGUSON.—At Coatbridge on 5th August, Ivie Ferguson.

GIBB.—At Ballcohmyle (the result of an accident) on 11th August, Dugald Gibb, aged 25 years (of 16 Garronhill).

JACK.—At Elmdene, Wellwood Street, on 13th August, Agnes Jack, aged 89 years.

TAYLOR.—At 133½ Main Street on 18th August, John Taylor, aged 77 years.

HIBBERD.—At 35 Middlefield Drive on 4th September, Agnes Marshall, aged 80 years.

MONTGOMERY.—In Canada on 17th July, Robert Montgomery, aged 73 years (son of the late Rev. R. Montgomery).

HUMPHREYS.—At Blackpool on 25th September (the result of an accident), Lilius B. Ross.

STRICKLAND.—At Northampton on 24th September, Daniel Strickland, aged 79 years.

COOK.—At Middlefield Drive on 8th October, William Cook.

GRAY.—At Ballochmyle on 1st October, William Gray, aged 39 years (of 8 Garronhill).

MARSHALL.—At Manchester on 1st October, John Marshall, aged 39 years (late of 54 Springhill terrace).

DAVIDSON.—At Kirkmichael Nursing Home on 2nd October, John Davidson, aged 66 Years (of 2 Council Houses, Glenbuck).

TODD.—At Greenock on 31st October, Walter Todd.

KING.—At Ballochmyle on 15th November, Mary Peacock, aged 64 years (of 20 Shawknowe Avenue).

ANDERSON.—At Cambuslang on 19th November, George Anderson (late of The Square, Muirkirk).

ROWE.—At Glasgow on 24th November, Edward Rowe, aged 42 years.

NELSON.—At 10 Stitt Place on 28th November, Janet Callan, aged 79 years.

BOLAND.—At Ballochmyle on 1st December, Hugh Boland, aged 55 years (of 26 Pagan Walk).

DEMPSTER.—At Glasgow on 3rd December, Robert Dempster, aged 55 years (of 8 Henderson Drive).

MARLIN.—At Ballochmyle on 6th December, James Marlin, aged 74 years (of 19 Colthart Drive).

BARR.—At 12 Garpel Avenue on 26th December, Mary Cox, aged 82 years.

HODGE.—At 28 Main Street on 28th December, Janet Anderson, aged 61 years.

McMANUS.—At 5 Railway Buildings, Smallburn, on 24th December, Mary Henderson, aged 61 years.

ROSS.—At 45 Glasgow Road on 31st December, Agnes Brown, aged 80 years.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1954

		(1953)
Births	27	33
Marriages	21	27
Deaths	32	32

Of course, with so many births registered at Irvine nowadays, and some deaths at Ballochmyle being registered at Mauchline, the above figures do not give a full picture.

CHAPTER FORTY-NINE

(1956)

FROM THE PAST

SIXTY YEARS AGO

What was going on in Muirkirk sixty years ago? A perusal of the first copies of the "Muirkirk Christmas Advertiser," No. 1 of which appeared in 1894, and which was the forerunner of the present day "Advertiser," sheds some light on local activities of these far-off days.

"What Muirkirk Folks Are Saying."

A column under this heading gives some pithy notes.

The local Education Authority in those days was the old School Board, which, according to the writer, was having a lively time of it, with the comment that "although the last Board lived in harmony, the same can't be said of this one," adding "it is best that matters should be fought out and that the public should be informed of all its doings."

In previous years the old folks had been remembered with a "Ne'erday Breakfast," but on this occasion it was intimated that there would be none, which was a pity.

Wellwood Street, it stated was the West End of Muirkirk, and that was where the "nobility" were to reside. House-building was presumably going on at that time.

The Football Club had been lacking in cup successes, but "although Muirkirk Football Club cannot bring a cup to the town, the Baird Institute Draughts Club mean to bring one."

Another revealing par:—

"The deep drainage scheme will deeply drain the pockets of the ratepayers of Muirkirk before it is paid up."

Strikes, of course, were not unknown in those days. Another par. reported that "the strike has overwhelmed the poultry show for this year at least," which also tells us that the Bird Show was a feature of the local calendar in these days.

The Literary Society was also going strong.

Local Merchants

About a score of local merchants availed themselves of advertising space in the first issue, and it may be a bit of interest to recall their names.

Robert McKenzie, Family Baker, advertised festive fare at his "Railway Temperance Restaurant, Main Street," and another family baker was John Penrice, of the Victoria Restaurant, Furnace Road.

John G. Hutchison, Wine and Spirit Merchant, offered a variety of liquid refreshment, and from his advert. it was evident that though football pools were unknown in these days, the fans were just as anxious to get the results, for he announced that the results of the principal Scottish and English football competitions were specially wired every Saturday.

Stationers and Newsagents were W. S. Smith, Printer (founder and publisher of the "Advertiser") and W. S. Blackwood (who also advertised patent medicines at lowest possible prices).

In the clothing line were Pearson's, Jack's, James Law, and John Hair, who was also a hatter, and there were two jewellers and watch and clock makers—W. L. Samuels and John Millar, the former also being an optician and a musical instrument salesman.

Muirkirk had its "Mineral Water Works" at Main Street (Proprietor William Walker), whose wares were "manufactured by the newest and most improved machinery and prepared with the finest liquified Anhydrous Carbonic Acid Gas."

William Weir, Fruiterer and Confectioner, also offered bird seed of all kinds; T. Henderson, Posting Master, had brakes, waggonettes and carriages for hire, and James Y. Hobbs was Ironmonger and Seedsman combined.

In the Grocery line were William Murdoch, Alex. Muir & Son, and John Kerr. The first two were also licensed grocers, and William Murdoch advertised two registered blends of Scotch Whisky—"The Muirkirk Blend" and "The Dews of Cairntable." Muir's (who also had a shop at Cumnock) announced that they had 10,000 gallons of old matured spirits in bond, and their specialities were "Cairntable Dew" (at 2s 6d a bottle, 14s 3d a gallon), and "Cairntable Blend," which was 3s a bottle and 16s a gallon. Incidentally, this shop advertised its hours of business as 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and 10 p.m. (punctual) on Saturdays!

In the musical line, James Blackwood's String Band, with "the latest and best music," was open for engagements.

1895

The next issue, in December, 1895, reported that "the new Muirkirk and Dalmellington Railway Bill comes up in the House of Lords in the beginning of February," and that "the same promoters are raising a Bill for a railway from Strathaven to Muirkirk," adding that "the journey from Muirkirk to Glasgow would only take an hour" and that "the Glasgow and South Western Railway Co. are getting frightened."

It was reported that a new station was to be built.

The Baird Institute Draughts Club (Mr Hugh Henderson, captain) was in the semi-final of the Ayrshire Draught Association Cup, and expected to bring home the trophy at the beginning of the year. Mr Kirkhope was said to be a champion draughts player and "the grand old man" of the Institute.

All our churches were stated to be showing "great activity" and a scheme was on foot to have an organ "permanently" in the U.P. Church.

Wellwood Street was "still progressing, and a number of cottages are shortly to be put up."

A "handsome Clydesdale Bank" was to be built opposite the Post Office. (The Bank in those days would be the cottage (now derelict) opposite the Carruthers Park and facing down the Main Street). The new Bank was to be built "in the Spring."

The Football Club were still in the doldrums and folks were saying that "they should sell their goalposts and jerseys."

The Bowling Green had lately been improved.

Additional advertisers (to those in the first issue) were D. B. Greenwood, Cycle Agent; John Kennedy, Ironmonger; C. B. Chalmers, Photographer; James Smith, Fishmonger and Poulterer; James Kerr, Carriage Hire (Muirkirk & Glenbuck); James Murdoch, Boot and Shoe Maker; Hogg the Baker; Isa B. Hamilton, Upholstress; and James Young, Ironmonger.

Glenbuck

This is what Glenbuck folks were saying in December, 1895:—

That they were to be well entertained in the Public School that winter.

That it was just a pity so many entertainments were following so hard after each other as some were bound to suffer financially.

That the school was not a suitable place for entertainment.

That the want of a hall was never more keenly felt.

That there was a record made in the way of teeth-pulling one Sunday.

That the West End of the Public Park was a very suitable site for the proposed Public Hall. A Committee was evidently functioning by then, and the Laird of Glenbuck was reported to be heart and soul in the matter.

That if the young folks of Glenbuck were not good singers they ought to be, but "four weekly singing practices are too many."

That it would be better if the Bible Class met on Sundays.

That the lovers of "the roaring game" were all wearying for the ice.

That "the Masons" were in grand form for work the other Friday evening.

That Glenbuck has fallen from the premier place in the quoining world this year, and our local champion is missing his brother in his practices, and that he plays too heavy metal, considering the way he has to toil at his daily work.

That the Brass Band is having its practices faithfully in the Public School . . . they might be able to enter the next contest under the Brass Band Association.

That there are plenty of conveyances now on Saturdays between Muirkirk and Glenbuck, but James Kerr will have to run a covered machine if he wants to keep the custom of the Saturday wanderers.

There would also likely be a story behind the snippets:—

That the Bidy might have chosen a more suitable night to tell her tale of woe, for she is too pathetic for Hogmanay.

All of which shows that there was a good deal of activity about the Parish at that time.

(Continued in next Chapter)

FATAL ACCIDENT AT KAMES

A young married man lost his life as the result of an accident at Kames Colliery on 29th January. He was James Archibald (31 years of age), who resided at 3 Harwood Avenue. Employed as a waggon man, James was working at the coal washing plant and was alone about 8.45 a.m. at the time of the accident. He was discovered lying dead on the rails with head injuries, evidently having been caught between two waggons, one of which was inclined on an emptying tip. James was a quiet young man well respected by all who knew him, and there was a very large concourse of mourners at the funeral to Muirkirk Cemetery. Mr Archibald leaves a wife and three young children—two boys and a girl.

RAILWAY FATALITY

A distressing fatal accident occurred on the railway at Muirkirk on 7th June. When the one o'clock train from Lanark arrived at Muirkirk Station a man's cap was discovered on the front of the engine, and on investigation the body of an elderly man was found on the line about a quarter of a mile east of the Station. The remains were conveyed to the mortuary at Muirkirk cemetery, and later in the day the victim was identified as William Findlay, 68 years of age, residing at 17 Lapraik Avenue. It is thought that the deceased, who was a bit deaf, had been walking towards the Station when the accident happened.

MUIRKIRK BADMINTON CLUB

- President Mr Tom Young
- Vice-President Mrs J. Parker
- Secretary Miss A. Boland
- Treasurer Miss J. Holden
- Match Secretary Mr D. Crosbie

SEEN AND HEARD

Miss Nan Hill, Henderson Drive, was chosen as "Queen of the Milk Bar" at Messrs Stevensons Dairy Farm Dance

Mrs M. Love, J.P., District Councillor, was the guest Chairperson at the Old Folk's Re-union.

The Ironworks Institute was one of the first venues to introduce Sunday dancing in this district. The music was supplied by the local combination, The Melody Quintette.

In February 31 new pupils were enrolled at Furnace Road School.

T. Johnstone & Sons opened their new premises at Pagan Walk in February.

The death was announced of Alex. McConnell, former left-back of the famous Glenbuck Cherrypickers.

Mr Joseph Murdoch, M.A., a product of Glenbuck, and who is presently Headmaster at Muirkirk J.S. School, has been appointed Headmaster at Prestwick High School.

Mr James Ford retired as Manager of the Clydesdale Bank, and Mr Thomas J. Drife has been appointed in his place.

Boland Bros., 26 Pagan Walk, opened a business as chimney sweeps and window cleaners.

The licence for Rennie's Bar (Main Street) was transferred to Mr William Wallace, Coal Merchant, Smallburn.

Mr A. Graham, Stationmaster at Muirkirk since 1951, has been transferred to Newton-upon-Ayr.

Mr and Mrs Gavin Murdoch, 36 Colthart Drive, celebrated their golden wedding on 20th April. They were married in the Royal Arms, Glenbuck.

Mr Hugh Parker, Kames Institute, was appointed caretaker of the Community Centre.

Professor George Hibberd, one of Muirkirk's most illustrious sons, was the Inspecting Officer at the B.B. Display.

Mr Alex. Glashan, Maybole, was appointed Headmaster at Muirkirk J.S. School.

Local man, Mr S. W. Fettes, was appointed Area Engineer for Scotland of British European Airways.

The Dux at Muirkirk J.S. School was Robin Hamilton.

Helen Samson was crowned Queen at Muirkirk Co-operative Gala Day. Helen also won the girls' sports championship at Furnace Road School.

The boys championship at Furnace Road was James McLatchie.

Mr James Masterton was re-elected to Executive Committee of the Scottish N.U.M.

In answer to a query it was said that the last Sports to be held at Kameshill Holm were on 31st July, 1909

Constable James Boyd has been transferred to West Kilbride, and taking his place at Muirkirk will be Constable John Cran from Ardeer.

The B.B. Camp this year went to Inverness.

The new Community Centre in the Ironworks Institute was officially opened in September.

PLANE CRASH

A 2-seater American plane went missing while going into Prestwick. The plane had been in radio contact with the control tower, and was making its turn prior to landing when it disappeared from the radar screen, and there was radio silence. The plane had crashed on a hillside four miles due south of Loudoun Hill, between Darvel and Sorn. and a mile or two beyond Muirkirk Parish. It was discovered the following day with both occupants dead

GLENBUCK FOOTBALL

(Reprinted from the book, "The Glenbuck Cherrypickers")



THE FAMOUS KNOX BROTHERS

In the Glenbuck Athletic days two teams established a big reputation over a wide area. One consisted of Hugh, Knox, Alec Knox, Tom Knox, Bobby Crosbie and William Mitchell; the other included James Blyth, Archie McBride, Wattie Ferguson, William Knox and Peter Knox. The five Knox brothers subsequently played together as a family team and proved almost invincible. So far did they carry all before them that they actually won 40 of the 41 competitions in which they played in one season. This is an achievement which leaves little scope for future record breakers. The reason for their success is clear enough. They played together as a team, indeed, a family team. Their tactics were carefully worked out and pre-arranged, and there was a perfect understanding amongst the brothers. Their opponents played as a collection of individuals, and found the tactics of the Knoxes altogether surprising and baffling. When we remarked to Hughie Knox that the five-a-side game seemed to be a very strenuous affair, involving a lot of running about, he shook his head. "No," he said, "the art of the game is to make the ball do the running about." So often did these men win the prizes - usually clocks or barometers — offered in the competitions that, after a while, they didn't even trouble to carry them home, but would hand them as a gift to any acquaintance standing on the touchline. Another team which was mentioned as being hard to beat was composed of John Hastie, Bob Tait, Jimmy Tait, William Wallace and John Ferguson. This teams dates from the later, Cherrypicker period.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1995

Births	24	(28)
Marriages	22	(21)
Deaths	27	(32)

Figures in brackets are for 1954

DEATH OF BUSINESSMAN

Mr Hugh Blair Wyllie, 21 Wellwood Street, passed away suddenly on 23rd July. Mr Wyllie, who was 58 years of age, was a native of Lugar and worked for the local building firm of Messrs James Brown & Sons for a considerable period, but for a number of years past he carried on the business of Messrs H. Wyllie & Son at Main Street.

A BIG ONE

Fishing on the River Ayr in July, a local angler, Mr Harry Gaw, landed a fish weighing five and a half pounds and measuring about 28 inches in length. The big catch proved to be a grilse, and it is most uncommon to get a fish of this variety or size on local waters.

MUIRKIRK JUNIOR F.C.

President	Mr Steve Bradford
Vice-President	Mr William Aitken
Secretary	Mr George Logie
Treasurer	Mr Thomas Mackin
Minute Secretary	Mr James Moran

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1956**BIRTHS**

- BELL.—At Irvine on 5th February to Mr and Mrs Charles Bell; a son.
 NORMINTON.—At Ontario on 23rd May to Mr and Mrs Robert Norminton (Isobel Bell); a son.
 PALMER.—At 117 Henderson Drive on 19th August to Mr and Mrs T. Palmer; a daughter.
 FLEMING.—At Irvine on 22nd September to Mr and Mrs Andrew Fleming (Mary Muirhead); a daughter.
 ROWE.—At Glasgow on 24th December to Edna (wife of Ralph Rowe); a son.

MARRIAGES

- WILLIAM SMALL to ELIZABETH WATERS on 25th February.
 JAMES DAVIDSON to BASILIA LOGIE on 3rd March.
 THOMAS MURRAY to BRIDGET MURRAY on 10th March.
 JAMES KIRKHOPE to RUTH BICKERTON on 24th March.
 DAVID KIRKWOOD to JEAN MEGAHY on 30th March.
 ROBERT WALKER to MARGARET HOLDEN on 30th March.
 WILLIAM ROLLET to ARLINE SHANNON on 14th April.
 IAN MANSON to PATRICIA SEYMOUR on 26th May.
 JAMES BRYCE to MARY MONTGOMERY on 13th July.
 ROBERT WEIR to MARGARET MURPHY on 10th July.
 THOMAS FLOYD to INA WYPER on 20th July.
 CHRISTOPHER McCRONE to ELIZABETH RORRISON on 19th July.
 WILLIAM MILBY to MARGARET ARCHIBALD on 28th July.
 SAMUEL JOHNSTONE to AGNES SLOAN on 8th August.
 SAMUEL MONTGOMERY to JEMIMA DAVIDSON on 21st September.
 JOHN SAMSON to MARGARET CLARK on 26th October.
 WILLIAM WILSON to MARGARET SAUNDERS on 27th October.
 JOHN PURDIE to JANET MACPHAIL on 10th September.
 JAMES NESBET to MARY MONTGOMERY on 10th November.
 ALEXANDER WHITE to MARGARET HILL on 21st December.

DEATHS

- YOUNG.—At 2 Madeleine Place on 10th January, James Young, aged 53 years.
 ARCHIBALD.—At Kames Colliery (as the result of an accident) on 29th January, James Archibald, aged 31 years; of 3 Harwood Avenue.
 PARK.—At 6 Stitt Place on 27th January, Thomas Park, aged 62 years.
 WARDROP.—At Irvine on 30th January, Mary McLeod, aged 42 years.
 POLLOCK.—At 36 Hawkshaw Terrace on 8th February, John Pollock, aged 72 years.
 DANGELO.—In Ontario on 26th February, Bert Dangelo.

- FORD.—At 22 Lapraik Avenue on 17th February, Jean Ford, aged 23 years.
 ANDERSON.—At Coventry on 5th March, Dan Anderson, aged 60 years.
 MITCHELL.—At Cairn View, Wellwood Street, on 8th March, Mary Wilson.
 BARR.—At Cleland on 16th March, Robert Barr, aged 69 years; late of Glenbuck.
 CONNOR.—At Ballochmyle on 25th March, Christopher Connor, aged 68 years; of 29 Hawkshaw Terrace.
 FERGUSON.—At Coatbridge on 27th March, Mary Simpson
 MUIR.—On 30th March, Thomas Muir, aged 25 years (late of Glenbuck).
 WARDROP.—At Cumnock on 29th March, William Wardrop, aged 46 years.
 BELL.—At Causewayhead in April, Margaret Barr, aged 75 years.
 MILLAR.—At Glasgow on 10th April, James Millar, aged 48 years.
 LOGGIE.—At Rigside on 22nd April, John Loggie, aged 90 years.
 HAMILTON.—At Rutherglen on 2nd May, John Hamilton (Butcher); late of Glenbuck.
 TORBETT.—At Dalmellington on 7th May, David Torbett, aged 63 years.
 PARK.—At Ayr on 11th June, John Park, aged 68 years (of 1 Lapraik Avenue).
 ANDERSON.—At Glasgow on 20th June, Mary Blyth, aged 76 years.
 BIRRELL.—At Rhode Island on 3rd July, Robert Birrell.
 GRANT.—At 14 Colthart Drive on 3rd July, William Grant, aged 58 years.
 CANNON.—At 14 Hareshaw Crescent on 16th July, Alexander Cannon, aged 87 years.
 PARK.—At 45 Garronhill on 16th July, James Park, aged 81 years.
 CAMERON.—At Ballochmyle on 20th July, Robert Cameron, aged 67 years (of 28 Kames Row).
 WYLLIE.—At 21 Wellwood Street on 23rd July, Hugh Wyllie, aged 58 years.
 MITCHELL.—Suddenly, at Muirend Mine on 1st August, George Hodge Mitchell, aged 51 years (of 139 Henderson Drive).
 BONE.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd August, Helen Docherty, aged 66 years (of 3 Springhill Terrace).
 HASTIE.—At 7 Council Houses, Glenbuck, on 3rd August, William Hastie, aged 76 years.
 LINDSAY.—At 26 Hawkshaw Terrace on 2nd August, Mary Bryden, aged 82 years.
 BONE.—At Heathfield Hospital on 20th August, George Bone, aged 70 years (of 3 Springhill Terrace).
 KERR.—At 7 Shawknowe Avenue on 2nd September, Agnes Lancellors, aged 70 years.
 SAMSON.—At Cumnock on 13th September, Nellie Samson, aged 62 years (of 38 Main Street).
 LOGIE.—At 1 Kirkgreen on 27th September, William Logie, aged 64 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

- PARK.—At 113 Main Street on 3rd October, Janet Park, aged 88 years (late of Glenbuck).
- GOLDIE.—At 16 Garronhill on 11th October, Janet Reid, aged 89 years.
- CRAWFORD.—At Cumnock on 21st October, Jean Wilson, aged 71 years (late of 131 Main Street).
- McGARRY.—At Ballochmyle on 18th October, Patrick McGarry, aged 49 years (of 10 Colthart Drive).
- FULTON.—At Law Hospital on 21st October, Robert Fulton, aged 56 years.
- MORRISON.—At Cumnock on 31st October, Margaret Dickson, aged 82 years (of 123 Henderson Drive).
- ARCHIBALD.—At 27 Hareshaw Crescent on 31st October, Agnes Gibson, aged 65 years.
- JACK.—At Ballochmyle on 16th November, Mary Lochrie, aged 76 years (of 8 Bridge Street).
- BLACKWOOD.—At Ballochmyle on 21st November, William Blackwood, aged 53 years (of Nessville, Wellwood Street).
- HILL.—At Chipenham on 29th November, Neil Hill, aged 53 years.
- O'BRIEN.—At Ballochmyle on 10th December, James O'Brien, aged 56 years (of 11 Lapraik Avenue).
- PATERSON.—At Glespin on 7th December, Ann Dewar, aged 68 years.
- TAYLOR.—At 132½ Main Street on 8th December, William Taylor, aged 55 years.
- HAUGH.—At Ballochmyle on 24th December, Gourlay Haugh (of 60 Main Street).
- McKERROW.—At West Glenbuck on 22nd December, James McKerrow (farmer), aged 75 years.
- MORAN.—At 4 Smallburn Drive on 22nd December, Daniel Moran, aged 68 years.
- STEELE.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd December, Susan Wilson, aged 78 years (of 40 Glasgow Road).
- STODDART.—At 29 Shawknowe Avenue on 18th December, William Stoddart, aged 83 years.
- McSKIMMING.—At 33 Wellwood Street on 30th December, John McSkimming, aged 78 years.

THE LATE MR JAMES McKERROW

Mr James McKerrow, a member of one of the oldest farming families in our district, passed away suddenly at West Glenbuck on 22nd December at the age of 75 years. Mr McKerrow, who had been in variable health for some time past, was the eldest son of the late Mr Thomas McKerrow, who farmed Spireslack for many years. He has one surviving sister, Agnes, in America, and a brother, Thomas, in Australia.

As a young man, Mr James McKerrow tried his fortune in the wheat growing province of Manitoba in Canada, but returned to his native heath on account of ill-health. He has farmed West Glenbuck for the long period of 42 years, and he was well known and highly respected in the district. His chief interest was in dairying, and for over 30 years he carried on the milk run which supplied the people of Glenbuck. Mr McKerrow was a member of the old Muirkirk Amateur Orchestra of happy memory, and was a violinist in that talented group.

FOOTBALL (Season 1955-56)

Another rather dismal season for the supporters of Muirkirk Junior F.C., and a crisis point was reached when not enough supporters turned up for the half-yearly meeting, and this had to be abandoned. A hurriedly arranged special general meeting drew a better response, and after a new Committee was appointed it was decided to carry on.

Mr George Bain was elected to be Vice-President of the Western League. This was the first time such an honour had come to the village.

Admission to League matches was raised from 9d to 1/-.

In the 1st round of the West of Scotland Cup Muirkirk lost 3—0 to Bellshill, and in the Scottish Cup they lost badly by the same score at Ladeside to Port Glasgow. The Muirkirk team was:—Jamieson; Connell, Stevens; Johnstone, McGeoch, Loneskie; Rae, Cashmore, Mackie, Cassidy, McDowall.

Ex-Muirkirk player Willie McCulloch had a lot to do with Scotland "B" team's unexpected draw against England, by scoring one goal and making the other; and Benny Kelly got the winning goal for Raith Rovers in their Scottish Cup tie.

1956 was to be Lugar Boswell Thistle's year—they did well to reach the final of the Scottish Junior Cup, only to be beaten 4—1 by Petershill at Hampden Park in front of a 65,000 crowd.

Muirkirk Juveniles fared rather better than their Junior counterparts, but after beating Coalburn in the Scottish, they lost 2—1 to East Kilbride in the next round. The team was:—Wyllie; Park, Muir; Thom, Murdoch, Short; Frew, Gaw, Walker, H. Campbell, Stewart..

In the semi-final of the Lanarkshire Cup they met Kirkmuirhill, and it took seven hours of football to separate the teams. Two draws of 1 goal each, and one draw of 3—3, before finally in the fourth game, after extra time Muirkirk lost by 4-3. The team was:—Stephenson; Park, Muir; Thom, Rankine, Clark; Campbell, Frew Walker, Black, Gaw.

In the semi-final of the Willie Richmond Trophy the Juveniles went down 2—1 to Burnbank Swifts.

And so once more it was left to Muirkirk schoolboys to show the way as far as local success was concerned. Muirkirk J.S. School team won the Area No. 5 League Championship without losing a single point. Last year they won it, too, and lost only one point, quite a unique achievement you will agree. To mark their success a social and presentation of the cup, badges, etc., was held in the School.

The players were:—John McMorran, W. Mitchell, Robin Hamilton, James Purdie, John Ross, Robert Parker (captain), Billy Wallace, Donald Mckenzie, James McLatchie, Elias Begg, W. McMillian, James McMorran, William Bradford, Edward Davidson, George Bradford, Irvine McCutcheon.

FOR LONG SERVICE

Mr Tom Ross, 3 Meanlour Drive, has just retired from active work in the mines, and his record is surely a unique one. Commencing work at the early age of 12 years, he has given his services to the mining industry for the long period of 66 years, and no doubt some tangible appreciation of this grand record will be forthcoming.

With so much house-building and consequent moving about in the village during recent years, we would mention, for the benefit of older readers and friends in many other parts, that Mr Ross and his family resided for many years at Kirkgreen.

This "weel kent" and well-respected figure is hale and hearty, and all will join in wishing him a well-deserved retirement.

CHAPTER FIFTY

(1957)

On the 19th November, 1957, the village of Muirkirk suffered what every mining community in the land dreaded—a disaster at the local Colliery. And so this was the case at Kames Colliery on that fateful Tuesday night, and anyone who lived through that drama will never forget the experience. Let the files of the “Advertiser” unfold the details as it happened. From the Issue of 21st November:—

Disaster at Kames Colliery

17 Lives lost in Underground Explosion

Our little community suffered a grievous loss on Tuesday night in the worst mining disaster in Scotland for many years. Seventeen lives were lost when an explosion occurred in a section of the West Mine.

The victims, all of Muirkirk, were:—

THOMAS BURNSIDE, 1 Burnside Cottages
 THOMAS CASEY, 25 Colthart Drive
 ALEX. CRAWFORD, 92 Pagan Walk
 JOHN DALZIEL, 43 Springhill Terrace
 TIM DILLON, 6 Shawknowe Avenue
 ANDREW FINDLAY, 19 Lapraik Avenue
 RONALD GRANT, 14 Colthart Drive
 WILLIAM HENDRY, 8 Stitt Place
 ROBERT LOWE, 24 Hawkshaw Terrace
 JAMES MARSHALL, 54 Springhill Terrace
 DON MCGARRY, 10 Colthart Drive
 WILLIAM MCKAY, 19 Springhill Terrace
 JOHN MCKEAN, 84 Henderson Drive
 JAMES SAMSON, 27 Miller Road
 ROBERT SMITH, 17 Stoneyhill Avenue
 WILLIAM SMITH, 52 Colthart Drive
 JOHN WALKER, 99 Henderson Drive.

Andrew Findlay, Don McGarry, Thomas Casey, and Ronald Grant were all teenagers; William Smith, John Walker and William Hendry, single men; and the remainder married. Mr Marshall was 69 years of age.

Twenty-eight men were working in the Section when the explosion, believed to have been caused by coal dust ignited by gas pockets in the farthest workings of the colliery, took place, and ten miners working at the coalface and seven men working farther along the Section were killed. The other men were blown off their feet and suffered mainly from shock.

The injured men were brought out by rescue workers, and three were taken to Ballochmyle Hospital:—Archie Smith, 8 Meanlour Drive (body and arm injuries); John Frew, 10 Pagan Walk (shock); and James Marshall, Wellwood Street (gassing and shock).

When the grim news spread throughout the village, hundreds flocked to the Colliery, and through the night the crowd waited silently in the rain.

Emergency squads of rescue workers were organised at the Colliery, and official mine rescue parties from Coatbridge, Alloa, Whitehill, Highhouse, Auchinleck, and Kilmarnock were summoned. In all more than 100 men working in teams of five took part, and it was eighteen hours before their work

was completed. They were hampered by several roof falls, carbon monoxide gas, and wrecked plant and equipment, and at times they were dragging stretchers through workings with less than three feet of headroom.

Ambulances were sent to the pithead from Ballochmyle Hospital, New Cumnock, and Cumnock.

In addition to the Colliery staff, officials of the National Coal Board, and of the National Union of Mineworkers, the local clergymen, and the police were present. Dr Weir went underground, and Dr Duke was on duty at the rescue station set up in the engine room. Local lady volunteers did good work in the canteen.

Survivors stated that there was a shattering blast and a tremendous rush of air. All lights went out and the whole area was filled with dense clouds of choking fumes.

One of the rescue teams said it was almost impossible to enter the explosion area immediately after the report because the fumes were so heavy and thick.

The first news of the missing men was that two bodies had been found. Later it was learned that the other fifteen were all dead.

Mr Raymond Parker, Chairman of the Scottish Division of the N.C.B., in a statement, said: “It is with the very greatest regret that I have to report that seventeen men who were missing have now been found dead. They will be brought to the surface as soon as possible.”

Mr Abe Moffat, Scottish President of the N.U.M., said: “I would like to say on behalf of the Scottish miners that we express deep sorrow for the relatives of these seventeen men.”

The first two bodies were brought to the surface about 3.30 yesterday morning, and by two o'clock yesterday afternoon (Wednesday) all had been recovered and were taken by ambulance to Ballochmyle Hospital to await identification by relatives last night.

From about four o'clock in the morning Rev. Chris. Jack (who had rushed through the night from Crieff), Rev. W. B. Stewart, and Rev. Father Conway had the sad task of conveying the news to the bereaved relatives.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have expressed deep concern at the accident, and have sent a message of sympathy to the bereaved families.

All day yesterday enquiries were being received from anxious friends and relatives, and widespread sympathy has been expressed with Muirkirk folks in their heavy loss. It is the bereaved families who have the heaviest cross to bear, and our hearts go out to them in their great sorrow so suddenly thrust upon them.

The Scottish Parliamentary Labour Party have sent a telegram of sympathy to the NUM. local branch and the relatives of the deceased.

It was also announced yesterday that a public enquiry will be made into the cause of the accident.

The N.C.B. have announced that immediate compensation of £150 will be paid to the widows of the victims, with an additional allowance of £25 for each child under 18.

Several local functions and the weekend football match have all been cancelled.

Disaster Relief Fund Set Up

At a meeting in the Parish Church Manse last night, Kames Colliery, Muirkirk, Disaster Relief Fund was launched to make an appeal on a nationwide scale. It was decided to approach the N.C.B., the N.U.M., and civic authorities for their support.

Officials of the Fund were elected as follows:—Chairman—

Mr James Masterton; Vice-Chairman—Rev. Chris. Jack; Secretary—Mr James Auld; Treasurer—Mr T. J. Drife; Executive Committee—Rev. T. K. Conway, Rev. W. B. Stewart, Mrs M. Love, and Messrs G. M. Bain, Hugh Love, A. J. Glashan, and A. Moreland, other members to be added.

FUNERALS OF DISASTER VICTIMS

(From 28th November Issue)

The funerals of the 17 men who lost their lives as the result of the explosion at Kames Colliery took place to Muirkirk Cemetery on Friday and Saturday last in cold but sunny weather.

On Friday a crowd of about 1,000 mourners attended the first ten funerals, which commenced at 11 a.m. and continued at intervals until about four o'clock in the afternoon. Each funeral was preceded by a short family service at the homes of the bereaved. Those buried were James Samson, William Smith, John McKean, Alex. Crawford, John Walker, Tom Casey Ronald Grant, Robert Smith, William Hendry, and James Marshall. Five of the services were taken by the Rev. Chris. Jack, three by the Rev. W. B. Stewart, and for the two members of the Christian Brethren—William Smith and James Marshall, the services were conducted by Mr Robertson, Cumnock, and Mr Tom Ferguson, Coatbridge, and Mr T. McLeod, Muirkirk, and Mr J. Cowan, Motherwell, respectively. Hundreds of wreaths and floral tributes surrounded the graves, many from fellow-workers in other parts of the Scottish coal-field.

The remaining seven funerals took place on Saturday, when the attendance of mourners was even larger than on Friday. The internments commenced shortly after 10 o'clock, and continued until fully one o'clock. The first funerals were those of John Dalziel and William McKay, conducted by the Rev. W. B. Stewart and Rev. Chris. Jack respectively, then followed four from St. Thomas' R.C. Chapel—the cousins Andrew Findlay and Donald McGarry, laid to rest in adjacent graves during the same service; Robert Lowe and Timothy Dillon. These services were conducted by the Rev. T. K. Conway of St. Thomas'. The final funeral was that of Thomas Burnside, and was conducted by Rev. Chris. Jack.

The coffins with the Roman Catholic victims had rested overnight in the Chapel, and on Saturday morning prior to the funerals, and before a congregation which overflowed the Church, Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Right Rev. Joseph McGee, Bishop of Galloway. Also present were Father Moriarty and his assistant, Father Grogan, Dalmilling, Ayr; Father Duffy, Annbank; Father Quinn, Waterside; Father Lyon, Kilwinning; and Father Tom McCann, Ayr. From the Chapel a large concourse of mourners walked behind the hearses at each of the funerals.

On both days the new Parish Church Hall at Glasgow Road was opened as a canteen, and Woman's Guild members served tea—a gesture very much appreciated.

Many officials and well-known personalities attended the funerals on the two days. Along with Muirkirk folks from over a wide area, they came in hundreds of cars, and on Saturday special buses brought parties of fellow workers from neighbouring collieries.

Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P. for South Ayrshire, was among the mourners, and the National Coal Board Officials attending included Mr Ronald W. Parker, Chairman of the Scottish Division; Mr W. Smith, Deputy Chairman; Mr L. Milligan, Industrial Relations Director; Mr J. Rimington, Finance Director; Mr G. Kirkwood, Area General Manager; Mr A. Gardner, Area Production Manager; Mr L. Bourke, Staff Director; and Mr H. R. King, Reconstruction Director; and many others.

From the Scottish N.U.M. Mr Abe Moffat, President (who was accompanied by Mrs Moffat); Mr Alex. Moffat, Vice-President; Mr John Wood, Treasurer; and all the members of the Executive Committee were present; and well-known local mining personalities noted included Mr John Colthart (who was accompanied by Mrs Colthart), Professor George Hibberd, and Mr Henry Wilson.

Rev. Wm. McIntyre, Scottish Industrial Chaplain of the Church of Scotland, represented the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and the Home Board, and the Salvation Army was also represented.

Representing the Burgh of Cumnock were Provost John Weir and Town Clerk Mr R. D. Hunter, and there were others from many airts whose presence betokened sympathy with the bereaved families and with the village.

Many womenfolk also made their way to the Cemetery, and the scene over the two days is one which will remain for ever in the memory of all who took part.

There were very large congregations in the various places of worship on Sunday, when sympathetic reference was made to the disaster and prayers offered up for the bereaved.

The following Sunday a United Churches Memorial Service was held in the Parish Church. The Church was filled to capacity with a congregation of about 500 adults, and an overflow was accommodated in the E.U. Congregational Church at Wellwood Street, where by the use of a loud speaker system the worshippers were able to hear the service from the Parish Church.

RE-CONSTRUCTION AT KAMES COLLIERY

It seemed rather ironic, but prior to the disaster, a great transformation had taken place at Kames Colliery, and a scheme of modernisation, re-construction, and development had been going on for about three years, and was nearing completion when the tragedy happened at the Colliery.

New pithead towers were erected, as well as a new administrative office. A new electricity sub-station has been erected at the pithead, through which the current for Muirkirk village itself is now being supplied. The former canteen has been transformed into a medical centre, with a fully-trained nurse in attendance.

In March, the new canteen was opened. Built alongside the Baths building, it is most attractive and well equipped

FOUND AFTER TWELVE YEARS

A local lady who was in luck the other day was Mrs James Taylor, 21 Wellwood Avenue. She lost her wedding ring twelve years ago, and believed it had slipped from her finger and had been disposed of with potato peelings.

On Friday she went out to the garden to lift a few potatoes and when turning over the soil noticed what she thought to be a child's toy ring encrusted with soil. On cleaning it she found it was her own long-lost wedding ring!

66 YEARS A MINER

Mr Thomas Ross, formerly of Kirkgreen, was presented with a gold watch to mark 66 years service in local mines. Mr Ross, who was born at Hurlford in 1878, and came to Muirkirk when he was 11 years old, starting work the following year. He is still hale and hearty.

Mr Ross commenced work at the pithead at Lightshaw Pit at the age of 12 years. In 1916 he transferred to Kames Colliery, and worked there until his retiral in November of last year.

THE DISASTER VICTIMS

BURNSIDE.—Thomas Burnside, aged 58 years, beloved husband of Christina Wallace, 1 Burnside.

CASEY.—Thomas Casey, aged 18 years, beloved son of John and Robina Casey, 25 Colthart Drive.

CRAWFORD.—Alexander Crawford, aged 37 years, beloved husband of Elizabeth Stitt, 92 Pagan Walk.

DALZIEL.—John Dalziel, aged 34 years, beloved husband of Mary McBirnie, 43 Springhill Terrace.

DILLON.—Timothy Dillon, aged 44 years, beloved husband of Sophie Dalziel, 6 Shawknowe Avenue.

FINDLAY.—Andrew Findlay, aged 20 years, son of the late William Findlay and of Catherine Findlay, 19 Lapraik Avenue.

GRANT.—Ronald Grant, aged 20 years, son of the late William Grant and of Mrs Ruth Grant, 14 Colthart Drive.

HENDRY.—William Hendry, aged 30 years, son of the late Benjamin Hendry and of Mary Hendry, 8 Stitt Place.

LOWE.—Robert Lowe, aged 53 years, beloved husband of Annie O'Brien, 24 Hawkshaw Terrace.

MARSHALL.—James Marshall, aged 69 years, beloved husband of Margaret Pearson, 54 Springhill Terrace.

McGARRY.—Donald McGarry, aged 18 years, son of the late Patrick McGarry and of Mary McGarry, 10 Colthart Drive.

McKAY.—William McKay, aged 48 years, beloved husband of Janet Chapman, 19 Springhill Terrace.

McKEAN.—John McKean, aged 53 years, beloved husband of Jean Robb, 84 Henderson Drive.

SAMSON.—James Samson, aged 37 years, beloved husband of Jean Russell, 27 Millers Road.

SMITH.—William Smith, aged, 47 years, of 52 Colthart Drive, son of the late Mr and Mrs Adam Smith

SMITH.—Robert Smith, aged 33 years, beloved husband of Elizabeth Murray, 17 Stoneyhill Avenue.

WALKER.—John Walker, aged 37 years, son of the late William Walker and of Annie Walker, 99 Henderson Drive.

SEEN AND HEARD

Miss Margaret Dempster was chosen as Muirkirk's Coal Queen.

Mr Stephen W. Fettes was Chairman at Muirkirk Old Folk's Re-union.

Work in dismantling the old Kames Mission Church was begun in February.

At the same time the waiting room on the North Side of Muirkirk Station was demolished.

A severe storm that winter caused some considerable damage, and about 500 trees were uprooted near Dungavel.

For the first time in the history of St. Thomas' R.C. Church, a double wedding ceremony took place when Mr Martin Morran was married to Catherine Hunter; and Mr Jim McCulloch (Lanark) was married to Miss Mary McDade.

Muirkirk Speakers Society was formed in February.

Kames Colliery's West Mine Social Club held its first social and dance.

Ayrshire's oldest working miner, Mr R. J. Bradford, was a special guest at the Miners Gala at Edinburgh. Mr Bradford is 77 years of age. Sadly Mr Bradford died later in the year. He had started his working life in the pits at the tender age of 11 years. For 25 years he was President of Muirkirk Angling Association.

Rev. James Greenshields who was Minister at the United Free Church at Muirkirk for forty years, celebrated his 94th anniversary at Prestwick, where he has been living for the past 25 years.

The footbridge at Muirkirk Railway Station was dismantled and removed in April, and the waiting room buildings on the north side has now also gone.

Mr Peter McLuskie, J.P., retired after 37 years as railway signalman.

The death was announced of Mr John Wylie, Muirkirk Co-operative Butcher, and he was a pillar of the E.U. Church.

Mr Peter McNally's greyhound, "Simmerdown Pal," won a cup at Bellvue, Manchester, and his bridle dog, "Shandon," won the coveted Wembley Gold Cup.

Mr Thomas Murphy, a well-known vanman with Muirkirk Co-operative Society, died suddenly.

Gibson's Hairdressing Salon moved to 107 Main Street.

Hugh Moorhead commenced business as a joiner at Main Street.

On Garpel Estate 104 brace of grouse were shot in one day, while on Middlefield, 300 brace were shot over two days.

Mr James McLelland, Manager of Muirkirk Co-operative Society Drapery Department, retired after thirty years service with the Society.

Work commenced in October with the dismantling of the old Baird Institute, and much regret was expressed that the former hub of local recreational activity should be destroyed.

In November the former Wellwood Church in Glasgow Road, which had been converted into a Hall by Muirkirk Parish Church was officially opened.

Constable James Liggett who had been stationed at Muirkirk for almost 10 years was transferred to West Kilbride. His place has been filled by Constable Ian Erskine from Girvan.

Hugh Walker and Irene McCulloch were the Sports Champions at Muirkirk School. The Dux was James P. Currie

Elaine Davies was crowned Gala Queen.

Mr William Gold was guest speaker at the Old Folk's re-union.

THE QUARRY HOLE

In memories of Muirkirk of other days the old quarry at the approaches to Ladeside Park will undoubtedly hold a place in the hearts of many of our readers. Many years ago an old local love song, "I was daffin' wi' my Jessie on the old quarry knowes" had its locus in this familiar quarter. Then, many will recall coal strike days of yester year when the menfolks dug into the quarry side to extract coal from surface seams therein, and later still it will be remembered as the home of Southside Quoiting Club, where the ring of the quoits and the cheery banter of the players and spectators played a part in the recreational life of the villagers.

Football fans of more mature years will recall with a smile the old battle cry, "Pit it in the Quarry Hole," when players, defending desperately to hold a slender lead, would boot the ball into the Quarry to gain a much-needed respite and bring that all-important final whistle nearer (there were few substitute balls in those days to keep the game going when one went out of play). For some youngsters of more recent times, too, the steep sides of the quarry ousted the old "Creeshy Knowe," by the side of the garpel Water in satiating youthful demands for greater thrills. We used to roll down the grassy knowes in great glee, but the quarry sides provided thrills of the "Cresta Run," variety, with shovels, boards, etc., taking the place of toboggans, and no snow was required, of course.

Now it would appear that, so far as these activities are concerned, the old quarry's day is finished. Daffin' has given way to dumping. In other words, hundreds of tons of debris from old houses being demolished to make way for the new is being dumped in the quarry hole, and it looks like being filled up completely. Of little consequence, perhaps, but how nice to start such a train of pleasant memories!

Incidentally, the other day among the ruined houses at Linkieburn we noticed an old-fashioned fireplace with the hooks for the "swee" still embedded in its side. We could almost picture the old stew pot on a Sunday morning! But time marches on.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr and Mrs David McFegan, 25 Hawkshaw Terrace, celebrated their Golden Wedding on 24th July. This well-known couple had lived at Bankhead for 21 years, and for a similar period resided at Garronhill. They had a family of fourteen—nine sons and five daughters, of whom five sons and four daughters survive, and they have 32 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr McFegan was a stalwart member of the successful Muirkirk Athletic which was amongst the silverware at the beginning of the century. Those were the days when the football ground was at The Holm at Smallburn (it is now covered by the Slag Bing). Mr McFegan was also a keen quoter, and was connected to the Masons Arms Quoiting Club for many years as both secretary and President

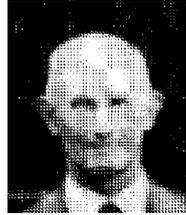
MUIRKIRK GOLF CLUB

A meeting to consider the future of the Club was held in the Masonic Hall in October, when, after consideration, and in view of the concern at damage to the Clubhouse at its isolated site at the former Auldhouseburn Course, it was decided to offer the building to Muirkirk Old Folks Welfare Committee for use as an old men's cabin if suitable.

It was, however, decided to hold on to the Club equipment and to recall the Club trophies, in the hope that at some future time other ground might be found for a golf course in Muirkirk.

THE LATE MR PETER McLUSKIE, J.P.

Only a few weeks ago we reported a presentation to mark the retiral, after 37 years as a railway signalman, of Mr Peter McLuskie, J.P., our former County Councillor. Now we regret to record the passing of this well-known personality at his home at 23 Wellwood Avenue on 30th May. He was 65 years of age.



Mr McLuskie, a native of Neilston, came to Muirkirk in 1923, and for a long number of years he took a keen interest in local affairs, and served the Parish in various capacities. He was a Parish and District Councillor for 15 years, while he sat on Ayr County Council for six years, and also served on various Committees of that body.

For 21 years he was secretary of the local Trades and Labour Council, and for 20 years he was a member of the Board of referees at Ayr. He was also a member of the Licensing Court of Appeal for six years.

He was the pioneer and secretary of the Ultra Violet ray Clinic in Muirkirk, which rendered years of invaluable service to local residents before Ballochmyle Hospital was opened. He was also one of the party which first organised the old folk's annual re-union in Muirkirk, and was made a Justice of the Peace 15 years ago.

Mr McLuskie was also a member of the Muirkirk Branch of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association, and held the Duke of Edinburgh Review Medal and the British Railways 25-year medal, as well as other medals won in competition. It was probably his life-long interest in this work which prompted Mr McLuskie to bequeath his body for medical research.

His pawky humour will be well remembered by all who knew Mr McLuskie. On the sporting side he was a keen boxing fan, and attended many of the principal contests throughout the country.

BANK CENTENARY

1957 is a centenary year for the Branch of the Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank in Muirkirk. The history of banking in the village goes back earlier than 1857, however, for the Ayrshire Banking Company, founded in 1830 opened Branches in Catrine, Cumnock, and Muirkirk. This Company was bought up in 1842 by the Western Bank of Scotland, which failed in 1857. The Branches at Cumnock and Muirkirk were then taken over by the Clydesdale Banking Company, later to change its name to the Clydesdale Bank, Limited, and, after amalgamation with its Northern neighbour in 1950, becoming the Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank, Limited.

The original bank office was in the Kirkgreen, and the premises at Townhead—known until the building was demolished recently as the "Auld Bank"—were taken over. The present office and house were built at the end of the last century.

The Clydesdale's first agent was James Whyte, who, we understand, was farmer at Kames. In 1886 Thomas Jackson was appointed accountant, and ten years later he succeeded Mr Whyte as Agent. Being something of a character, Mr Jackson was well known throughout the neighbourhood, and took a leading part in public affairs. He was followed in 1923 by Mr John Henderson, who had been Sub-Agent for some months previously. On Mr Henderson's retiral in 1933, the late Mr William C. Muir was appointed, and on his transfer to East Kilbride in 1941 he was followed by Mr Edward M. Kerr, now Manager at Dennistoun, Glasgow. In 1949 the late Mr James Ford was transferred from Stewarton to Muirkirk,

and on his retiral in March, 1956, Mr Thomas J. Drife, a former apprentice at the Branch, was appointed Manager.

Older readers were quick to point out an omission in the list of the agents of the Clydesdale Bank as given above. It now appears that James Gibson was Agent from 1886 to 1896 and that he had been accountant at the Branch at least from 1865, and in all probability was Accountant when the Branch was opened in 1857

JUBILEE OF "THE ADVERTISER"

Fifty years ago to-day, on September 19, 1907, "The Muirkirk Advertiser" made its first appearance as a weekly sheet in Muirkirk. In announcing its debut, the founder and Editor stated:—"In issuing a sheet of any kind, be it daily, weekly, or monthly, it is customary to make some apology for its appearance. In this case no apology is offered. It is born for the purpose of mutual benefit—benefit to reader, customer, and advertiser . . . "The Muirkirk Advertiser" as the name suggests, is primarily an advertising medium . . ."

That was fifty years ago to-day. "The Advertiser" consisted of four pages of three columns, and was delivered gratis to every household in the district. It was immediately accepted by the good folks of Muirkirk, and over the years it has become an integral part of the life of our little community.

Fifty years is a long time. Of course, the printing firm from which our newspaper stemmed, was founded some 13 or 14 years previously, and indeed, in the 1890's a paper in magazine form, "The Muirkirk Christmas Advertiser," published annually for a few years, heralded the issue later of the "Wee Paper," which Muirkirk folks the world over have supported and accepted with the whole-heartedness characteristic of the district.

In October, 1928, twenty-one years after its inception, "The Muirkirk Advertiser" became "The Muirkirk Advertiser and Douglasdale Gazette," embracing the Parish of Douglasdale, and as in Muirkirk, the 'Dale took the "Wee Paper" to its heart.

Later, at the request of the inhabitants, we took in the districts of Douglas Water and Rigside, and in doing so again we added to our circle of friends and customers.

Therefore, on this happy occasion, we would express to our readers, advertisers, and correspondents our heartfelt thanks for their loyal and enthusiastic co-operation over the years. In doing so we would also assure them all that their encouragement and assistance make us feel it is a pleasure to be of service. Therefore, we enter into our second "fifty" with a measure of hope and confidence.

FOOTBALL (Season 1956-57)

Another crisis season for Muirkirk Juniors, culminating in the election of Michael Boland as secretary and a new Committee formed in an effort to boost prospects for the following season. But this was after they had crashed out of the West of Scotland Cup 6—3 to Auchinleck, and losing 2—0 to Lugar in the 1st Round of the Scottish Cup. The team improved later in the season and managed to reach the semi-final of the Irvine and District Cup, when they lost 3—1 to Irvine Meadow. The team was:—McKenzie; Connell, Steven; Bell, McQueen, Johnstone; Hendry, P. Johnstone, Grinley, Black, Rae.

Former Muirkirk left back Eric Caldwell played a tremendous game for Scotland against England, despite being on the losing side.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1957

BIRTHS

WALKER.—At Irvine on 12th March to Mr and Mrs R. Walker (Margaret Holden); a son.

COOK.—At Kilmarnock on 14th September to Mr and Mrs Daniel Cook; a daughter.

CROSBIE.—At Co. Durham on 10th October to James and Sylvia Crosbie (nee Ellis); twin sons.

BELL.—At Dewsbury on 6th December to Mr and Mrs Charles Bell; a son.

MARRIAGES

DAVID HAMILTON to MOIRA ALLAN on 26th January.

ADAM VEITCH to ANNIE STEVEN on 16th February.

ROBERT KIRKWOOD to ANNIE WILSON on 15th March.

JAMES LEES to JEAN BECK on 16th March.

JAMES LAWRIE to ELIZABETH FULTON on 16th March.

GEORGE BALLANTYNE to MARY JACK on 23rd March.

JOHN McKAY to JANET BONE on 23rd March.

JAMES ROBERTSON to ANNA SAMSON on 16th March

WILLIAM MATHIESON to JOAN PARKER on 29th March

JOHN WEIR to SYLVIA CARSON on 22nd March.

JAMES BROWN to EUNICE BRADSHAW on 22nd April.

JACK HUNTER to ANTHEA WILLCOCKS on 23rd May.

GEORGE MURPHY to GRACE DOUGLAS on 1st June.

ARCHIE WEIR to JEAN CAMPBELL on 1st June.

WILLIAM LAFFEY to MARGARET LENNOX on 15th June.

THOMAS PURDIE to ELIZABETH BAIRD on 22nd June.

ALEX. McCALL to MARGARET BONE on 29th June.

ALEX. MORAN to SHEENA MURDOCH on 5th July.

THOMAS STRICKLAND to MARGARET BALLANTYNE on 11th July.

JOHN STRICKLAND to SUSAN JACKSON on 12th July.

THOMAS DEMPSTER to HELEN KIRK on 12th July.

DONALD BOURNE to NAN STACEY on 27th July.

ALEX. JACKSON to ALICE JOHNSTONE on 10th August.

THOMAS KERR to ISABELLA BONE on 31st August.

MALCOLM ROSS to LAURA ROWE on 7th September.

PETER STRICKLAND to WILHELMINA BLACKWOOD on 14th September.

MARRIAGES (Cont.)

JOHN WILSON to AGNES ROSS on 28th September.
 WILLIAM ADAMSON to BARBARA HILL on 28th September.
 JOSEPH HOLDEN to ETTA BARRIE on 25th October.
 ROBERT SHAW to ELIZABETH JACK on 26th October.
 THOMAS BARRIE to SYLVIA HIBBS on 21st December.

DEATHS

ADAMSON.—At Newton Stewart on 1st January, William Adamson.
 GIBSON.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd January, James Gibson, aged 60 years.
 LIVINGSTON.—At Slough on 5th January, Sadie McGinlay, aged 29 years.
 GORDON.—At 16 Wellwood Avenue on 14th January, Abigail Young, aged 76 years.
 DALZIEL.—At Holmhead Hospital on 21st January, George Dalziel, aged 71 years, of 53 Springhill Terrace.
 STEELE.—At 93 Main Street on 23rd January, Peter Steele, aged 84 years.
 SMITH.—At London on 27th January, Edward Smith (son of the late Mr and Mrs Shaw Smith, Printer).
 BLYTH.—On 1st February, Matthew Blyth (late of Glenbuck), aged 85 years.
 KEAN.—At 30 Hawkshaw Terrace on 2nd February, John Kean, aged 74 years.
 ANDERSON.—At Edinburgh on 10th February, Elizabeth Park (late of Glenbuck).
 RENNIE.—At Auchinleck on 28th February, Annie Hendry, late of Knoweview, Muirkirk.
 BONE.—At Drongan on 9th March, George Bone, aged 66 years.
 LOCHRIE.—At 34 Main Street on 20th March, Alexander Lochrie, aged 63 years.
 SHANKLY.—At 6 Council Buildings, Glenbuck, on 15th March, Barbara Blyth, aged 79 years.
 MURRAY.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd March, Janet Paterson, aged 67 years (of Victoria Buildings).
 BROWN.—At Edinburgh on 2nd April, John Brown, late of Grasshill, Glenbuck.
 BLYTH.—At Larkhall on 6th April, Robert Blyth, aged 75 years (late of Glenbuck).
 DODDS.—At Dalmellington on 8th April, David Dodds.
 MILLER.—In U.S.A. on 7th April, Jamesina Hastie (late of Glenbuck).
 BOYES.—At Blackridge on 23rd April, Jane Boyes, aged 91 years (late of Muirkirk).
 COOK.—At Ballochmyle on 18th April, Duncan Cook, aged 20 years (of 43 Glasgow Road).
 BECK.—At Ballochmyle on 4th May, David Beck, aged 51 years (of 20 Hawkshaw Terrace).
 BROOM.—At 2 Wellwood Street on 8th May, Thomas Broom, aged 82 years.
 BROWN.—At 14 Shawknowe Avenue on 7th May, Robina Connor, aged 76 years.
 FREW.—At Ballochmyle on 9th May, Jeanie Kirkland, aged 62 years (of Irondale House).
 ANDERSON.—At Strathaven on 17th May, Annie Threshielea.
 HODGE.—At Halifax on 16th May, George Hodge, aged 78 years (late of Muirkirk).
 HUNTER.—In South Africa on 18th May, John Hunter (late of Glasgow Road).
 MOORE.—At Prestwick on 20th May, Andrew Moore, aged 58 years (late of Glenbuck).
 QUEEN.—Suddenly, at work on 19th May, Louis Queen, aged 54 years (of 42 Henderson Drive).
 WYLIE.—At 20 Wellwood Street on 27th May, John Wylie, aged 84 years.
 McLUSKIE.—At 23 Wellwood Avenue on 30th May, Peter McLuskie, aged 65 years.
 DEMPSTER.—At 15 Wellwood Avenue on 9th June, Mary Falconer, aged 45 years.
 CALLAN.—At Crossford on 23rd June, John Callan, aged 6 years.
 McDADE.—At 2 Meanlour Drive on 21st June, Bridget Gibney, aged 85 years.
 MURPHY.—At 50 Main Street on 25th June, Thomas Murphy, aged 62 years.
 BENNIE.—At 33 Middlefield Drive on 28th June, John Bennie, aged 58 years.
 McCALL.—At Edinburgh on 29th June, Archibald McCall, aged 69 years (late of Muirkirk).
 McFEGAN.—In Canada on 6th July, Jenny Hogg (late of Glasgow Road).
 MURPHY.—At 67 Henderson Drive on 14th July, Marion McFarlane, aged 58 years.
 HOGG.—At Alloa on 26th July, Robert Hogg, aged 72 years.
 MASTERTON.—At Glasgow on 6th August, Jean Adamson.
 PARK.—At 5 Council Houses, Glenbuck on 12th August, Florence Barr, aged 69 years.
 WHYTE.—At 19 Wellwood Avenue on 12th August, Mary Jane Whyte, late of Wellwood.
 BONE.—At Ballochmyle on 16th August, Francis Bone, aged 58 years (of 26 Lapraik Avenue).
 SHANKLY.—At Ballochmyle on 21st August, Agnes Davidson, aged 58 years (of 11 Smallburn Drive).
 MORELAND.—At Ballochmyle on 24th August, Esther Moreland, aged 71 years.
 MENZIES.—At 12 Henderson Drive on 2nd September, Christina Samson, aged 62 years.
 SMITH.—On 30th August, Agnes Anderson, of Burns Inn, Cumnock.
 FREW.—At Ballochmyle on 12th September, Agnes Gardiner, aged 63 years (of 131 Henderson Drive).
 ALLAN.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd September, Thomas Allan, aged 58 years (of 51 Pagan Walk).
 BELL.—At 19 Lapraik Avenue on 20th September, Catherine Patton, aged 74 years.
 RAE.—At Kirkburnhead Farm on 11th October, Thomas Rae, aged 76 years.
 YOUNG.—At Wales on 11th October, Dr. David Murray.

DEATHS (Cont.)

- HOGG.—At 33 Shawknowe Avenue, Thomson Hogg, aged 8 years.
- BRADFORD.—At Law Hospital on 3rd November, Robert J. Bradford, aged 78 years (of 5 Wellwood Avenue).
- MITCHELL.—At Corby on 4th November, Mary Mitchell, aged 81 years (late of 40 Kames Row).
- LOCHHEAD.—At 18 Hareshaw Crescent on 9th December, James Lochhead, aged 69 years.
- TELFER.—At 4 Kames Row on 7th December, William Telfer, aged 74 years.
- BERTRAM.—At Linlithgow on 12th December, Elizabeth Bertram, aged 83 years (late of Glenbuck).
- HAMILTON.—At Toll Cottage, Smallburn, on 14th December, James Hamilton, aged 90 years.
- LESLIE.—At 4 Wellwood Street on 19th December, Margaret Leslie.
- STEVEN.—At Ballochmyle on 20th December, George Steven, aged 74 years (of 25 Burns Avenue).
- BLYTH.—At 141 Main Street on 30th December, Isabella Samson, aged 84 years.
- GRANT.—At 52 Smallburn on 29th December, Elizabeth Stevenson, aged 85 years.
- HAZLE.—At Paisley on 29th December, James Hazle, aged 75 years (late of 60 Glasgow Road).

From an early edition of the "Advertiser:—"

OPENING OF BRANCH RAILWAY LINE

The main Muirkirk to Ayr railway was officially opened in August, 1848, but a month earlier a miscellaneous crowd of old and young folk gathered on 17th July, 1848, to see the first engine and train arrive in Muirkirk.

From a most reliable authority we learn that Muirkirk had a Band of its own even then. It had been present at the laying of the foundation stone at Ballochmyle Bridge on 5th September, 1846. The usual dress of this band was a uniform—pea-green tunic, and white duck trousers. At Ballochmyle, however, they were all dressed in black, and acquitted themselves with great credit, being the premier band there. This Band was at the Station on the 17th July, 1848, when the Directors and chief officials of the G. & S. W. R. Co. first visited Muirkirk in an official capacity. Long before the train had reached Muirkirk its advent had been looked for at the Pits near Nether Wellwood, the scaffolding at the pit heads being crowded with workmen, and great was the cheer raised when cries of "Yonder she's" announced the coming of the engine, still a mile away. The driver of the train was George Ross, who was at that time daily working an engine betwixt Lugar and Auchinleck. The driver, Boyd of Glasgow, had taken ill on the journey, and George Ross took his place at Kilmarnock. The name of the engine was the "Orion," and its number was 31. Ross, although he did not exactly belong to Muirkirk, knew the village well as a boy. One of our best known citizens, John Ross, Cunningham Place (West) is a son of George. The fireman's name was Sam Campbell, lately night loco. superintendent, Dumfries. The writer knew both Samuel and his son well. The latter was the driver who was

killed at Barassie a few years ago (about 1920). After 11th August, 1848, a mineral train ran to Auchinleck and back early in the morning—3 to 7 a.m. This engine with a train (goods, mineral, and passenger combined) left Muirkirk for Glasgow, &c., and returned at night. The driver of this train was Boyd. A Glasgow driver (Gardiner) came to Muirkirk in the forenoon with a train, hung about the village for a few hours, and then returned home late in the afternoon. The line at first was single. Mr McKay, the father of the present Mrs Hamilton of Wellwood, was the chief engineer of the railway. At this time (1848) passengers could not go to the South per rail, but only North via Kilmarnock. William Meikle, Victoria Buildings, who later on, became a noted driver on the G.&S.W.R. and to whose experience present drivers owe much in steam saving matters, was as a boy present at the first arrival of the Orion. He afterwards became a fireman on the Muirkirk branch. In 1852 Mr Peter Ferguson walked over the moors to Leadhills, on a visit to Dumfries, then down Enterkine Pass, and so on to Thornhill, which was then the terminus to Dumfries per rail. Mr Meikle informs us that soon after this date, the railway betwixt Auchinleck and Thornhill was completed. We understand that the loco officials were rather primitive in their methods at first, until Mr John Ross was sent as superintendent. After his arrival things were gradually toned down to something more like the disciplined staff that at present exists.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1956

Births	24 (25)
Deaths	26 (27)
Marriages	33 (22)

The figures in brackets are for the previous year.

Mary R. Wallace,
128 Main Street, Muirkirk
 can offer the following :—
BEST QUALITY HARDBOARD
 ★
" UNITEX "
ENAMELLED HARDBOARD
(Plain and Tiled)
 ★
FORMICA - ½ in. PLYWOOD
 ★
MOULDINGS
 ———
All Cut to Customers'
Requirements.

CHAPTER FIFTY-ONE

(1958)

The dawn of the new year in Muirkirk was not to be one of celebration, but one of coming to terms with the tragedy which befell the community with the Disaster at Kames Colliery. But life had to go on, and villagers bravely tried to continue with everyday chores and build a new future. But it was difficult, because there was hardly a person in Muirkirk who was not affected in some way with the awful event of last November. At the "Advertiser" Office messages of sympathy and understanding continued to arrive, and it would be some time yet before village life resembled some sort of normality.

THE DISASTER ENQUIRY

(February 6th Issue)

The inquiry into the explosion in the West Mine at Kames Colliery on 19th November, in which 17 miners lost their lives, was commenced in Ayr County Buildings yesterday.

The inquiry is being heard by Sir Harold Roberts, Chief Inspector of Mines.

In evidence the section oversman on the day shift on the day of the disaster said he paid particular attention to safety, and in his inspection he usually looked for bad roofs, made sure that safety devices were used, and that the air conditions were kept up, but he admitted that he never carried a safety lamp, and he had never carried out a full inspection for safety in the West Mine. He had, however, seen one deputy in particular testing for firedamp, and he knew there was black damp in the west section known as Wylie's Slope. The place was fenced off and flushed out. Answering questions about five underground roads which were stopped up, the oversman said that four of them were not ventilated and the other one was ventilated until 11.30 a.m. on November 19. He had uncoupled an air fan in the West Mine on that day, intending to recouple it the following day, and the Under Manager had agreed with this decision. Several faults had been encountered in the working of the six-foot seam, he said, usually water faults, and several underground roads were sealed off, some because of roof falls. After the explosion some of the stoppings were found to have been destroyed. Special steps were taken to reduce coal dust in the mine by using wet sprays at loading points. The reason for uncoupling the fan was to get a scraper installed in Wylie's level for the night shift.

The statutory surveyor for the Colliery, who said the last quarterly survey before the accident was made on September 9, 1957, gave evidence with regard to faults, and when asked by Mr Abe Moffat if he knew whether plans for the dust zones in the Colliery had ever been submitted to the Inspector of Mines, he did not know, but agreed to a National Coal Board query, that Kames had been regarded as a safe, or naked light pit.

Two deputy oversmen said they had considered Kames a perfectly safe pit, and one of them said that on the day of the accident he had carried out a pre-shift test before the afternoon shift went on duty. He had tested two spots in the West Mine, but did not find any gas.

Four miners all said in evidence that they had never seen anyone testing for gas.

Eight of the fifty witnesses who have been cited appeared yesterday.

February 13th Issue

When the inquiry was resumed at Ayr on Thursday last, witnesses told their stories of the explosion on November 19, in which 17 miners lost their lives.

A shot-firer said that when he was at the coal face with other men there was a tremendous build-up of air pressure which he felt in his ear drums. It increased so much that he felt his head was about to burst, then it suddenly stopped and there was an inrush of air which rocked them to and fro, but there was no noise and no report of any kind.

A colliery deputy said that after the inspection of a fault in which explosives were used he found everything in order. He went to the engine house and while he was there, there was a sudden heavy pressure of air which pushed him and others against the wall. There was no noise and he thought there had been a fall somewhere, so they ran along the haulage road, where they met fumes and smoke, but were able to carry on. When they reached the pony road two men were lying and a deputy was attending to them. He spoke to the one who was least injured, but the man could tell him nothing. He arranged for emergency calls to go out, and took another workman into the 6-ft. intake airway and down 30 feet to the pony road, but could not get through for the smoke. They had attempted to get to another road, but had to retrace their steps. The road was in a very bad condition, but there was no stoppage. It must have been blown out, but the atmosphere was very unhealthy. Two bodies were lying in the road. He made his way back to the main entrance and met the rescue brigade coming in.

The witness, in reply to a question, said he always carried a safety lamp and went into every place in the Section, and he had made a test for black damp the day before the explosion. The lamp went out and he had to re-light it. He had made a test for fire-damp on the Friday before the explosion, and he had found fire-damp at Wylie's Stoop the week before the accident. In reply to a question by Mr Abe Moffat, for the NUM., the witness agreed the miners were producing coal merely by blasting it out and that shot-firing was rather excessive.

A coalface worker, in answer to another question by Mr Moffat, said that he had never seen a deputy testing for gas in his place, nor did the deputies always carry their flame safety lamps on pre-shift inspections. After the explosion he managed to get 100 feet down the intake level in an attempt to reach the bottom of the pit, but was forced to return because of billowing smoke.

The safety officer at the pit, asked by Mr Moffat if it was correct that in February, 1957, gas was found in the intake airway, said he had not heard of it. Mr Moffat said that according to the record there were also traces of gas on April 15 and 20. The safety officer, asked about taking samples of coal-dust gas, admitted that he had no special training, but said it was a naked light pit and "gey near as safe as outside."

Flame caused by Gas

On Friday a coalface worker described an incident in the Colliery in which a flame caused by gas was observed in a shot-hole. He said he had seen a blue flame between the stemming of the charge and the entrance to the hole during a shot-firing operation.

Asked by Mr G. C. Emslie, Q.C. (for the N.C.B.), witness agreed that this had been a matter of great importance, but when Mr Emslie suggested that, for some reason or other, it had been kept secret by him and his mates, he said he didn't think it had been kept secret. He had told his mates about it, and the following day showed a deputy what had happened.

The deputy had denied having received a report about the incident.

Another coal-face worker, who was with the previous witness during the shot-firing incident, said it was the first occasion he had ever encountered gas. He said he did not know it was inflammable gas. He had not reported it, but had talked

about it to the men in the section. The under-manager said he had never heard of gas being lit in the pit, nor had he heard of any report of such being received.

Died Instantly

The senior pathologist at Ballochmyle Hospital said that most of the 17 victims of the explosion had died instantly. His post mortem examination showed asphyxia in all cases with saturation from carbon monoxide varying between 10 and 80 per cent. In some cases death was due to pure asphyxiation. Some of the men had severe burning injuries and fractures.

Fire Damp

On Saturday Mr Turner, Colliery Manager at Kames, asked if he could give any explanation of the cause of the accident, said that in a broad way he felt that it was fire-damp that had exploded. He had no idea where the fire-damp had ignited, and said there was no physical signs of violence in the pit except two falls near a working called Casagranda's Level. He did not think there had been any ignition of coal dust.

In his evidence the Manager said he had been ill since August 26 and only returned home from hospital on November 18. On the day of the accident he was still convalescing, his personal supervision having ended on August 28. He had endeavoured to the best of his ability to see that deputies carried their safety lamps, and he was of the firm belief that they did carry them. During the statutory inspections he had never seen a deputy without a safety lamp. In reply to a question by Mr Moffat, Mr Turner said he did not think there was any urgent need for the suppression of coal dust because the places were damp, and he thought the position had remained unchanged.

Also on the question of ventilation, Mr Hill, the Under-Manager, said that one of the workings, Wylie's Level, was not ventilated. He also mentioned several other places which, he said, did not require ventilation because they were kept for a sump for water. They were waste sections and were to be fenced off. He said he saw nothing wrong with the system of ventilation.

The Under-Manager denied he had been consulted about the uncoupling of a fan in the pit on the day of the explosion.

On Monday, Mr Richard Evans, Inspector of Mines, Ayrshire District, in reply to questions, said he thought the explosion had been of fire-damp, which served as a tinder for an explosion of coal dust. There was evidence of coking that he had not previously found. It was not normally associated with a fire-damp explosion, and the only thing he could think of was a naked light. The power had been cut off below the working, Wylie's crosscut, at the time, so that electricity could be ruled out. The explosion could have been caused by someone in the area innocently lighting his pipe.

Earlier, Mr Peter Milligan, Deputy Production Manager, and formerly Group Manager of Muirkirk Area, said he was satisfied that every step was taken to recover anyone who was alive. Kames Colliery had for years been considered as an experimental ground for explosives work, and following the success of these experiments it was decided, with the permission of the Mines Inspectorate, to use detonators for shot firing. With the use of detonators there were less fumes, less concussion, less dust and more coal. He agreed that the existence of coal dust in a pit was a serious matter, and the best precaution was to take samples of the dust. Asked to explain why no steps were taken in the West Section, he said from information he had received the Manager was satisfied that it was not necessary. To another question suggesting that he should try to do something himself to guarantee that on all roads dust samples were taken whether he knew that dust was there or not, witness replied in the affirmative. In his opinion the explosion was caused by fire-damp, but from where.

he could not say, except that it came from somewhere in the strata.

Questions in similar vein were put to Area Production Manager, Mr A. Gardiner, who agreed it was odd that a deputy should make an examination for gas when all around him men were smoking cigarettes and pipes and lighting matches.

On Tuesday Professor Poole, eminent Professor of Mining at Durham University, said in his opinion electricity and shot-firing could be eliminated as the cause of the explosion, which left smoking. He criticised the method of shot-firing at Kames, particularly the practice of stemming the shots with coal dust, which was very explosive. He thought there should be no naked light collieries at all, except perhaps a few shallow mines which could possibly be exempted. On the question of ventilation, he also criticised the arrangements in the West Mine, and said there was a bad leakage of air at the shaft top.

Dr Tideswell, Safety of Mines Establishment, Sheffield and Buxton, considered that the explosion was started by gas and that gas flame played an incidental part in its development. But while it was extended by gas, it was extended for the greater part by coal dust. He said that on the night of the explosion the men were working in clean, fresh air, but he presumed it was natural, under the circumstances, for the men to have run for safety to the main roadway, where they would be overcome by asphyxia.

Professor George Hibberd, of the Dixon Chair of Mining, Glasgow University, and Professor of Mining, Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow, said in evidence that he thought the ventilation system at Kames was adequate. He did not think the explosion was propagated by coal dust. His opinion was based on observations particularly in the main dook. Asked if, assuming there had been no participation of coal dust at all, what in his opinion would have been the extent of the fire-damp explosion, Professor Hibberd said he did not think there would have been any difference really. He thought the flame path would have been the same.

The inquiry was concluded yesterday, and a report will be given in next week's issue.

INQUIRY CONCLUDED

(February 20 Issue)

On the final day of the inquiry at Ayr on Wednesday of last week, the Commissioner heard the submissions of the agents representing different interests in the mining industry, and said he would prepare a report as soon as possible and would do his best to make recommendations which, if observed, might help the industry.

Mr Walter Widdas, Scottish Divisional Inspector of Mines, said that the heating had proved that immunity from inflammable gas in the past was no reason for assuming that there would never be inflammable gas in the future. It was vital to safety that proper inspections for gas should be made at all times, and it was recognised that flame safety lamps were the best detectors of fire damp and black damp. The way to prevent the danger of explosions was to have a supply of large quantities of air to all working places, and to stop off wastes efficiently so as to ensure that at no time could the dangerous emission of inflammable gas occur.

Mr Abe Moffat, President of the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers (who represented the N.U.M.), said that in all his long experience in the mining industry he had never witnessed so many breaches of Coal Mines Act and regulations as there were at Kames. Playing about with human lives in that way could not be tolerated any longer, and he hoped that such conduct would be condemned and steps taken immediately to stop such practices at Kames Colliery.

Mr Moffat claimed that there had been a complete disregard of elementary safety precautions on the part of the management, and it was deplorable to think that statements had been made by deputies and officials at the Colliery on the failure to carry safety lamps for tests for fire damp.

Mr Moffat said that when a miner committed a breach of the Coal Mines Act he was usually prosecuted or dismissed immediately. The Miners' Union, to their credit, had never defended a miner in court when he was charged with a breach of the Act. Was the same treatment meted out to others in the mining industry who had an even greater responsibility than miners to ensure that regulations were carried out in the interests of safety? He was afraid quite the opposite was the case. Everything was done to defend them in court, and in place of prosecution or dismissal in certain cases we found they were actually promoted.

Mr G. Emslie, Q.C. for the N.C.B., said it seemed to him that no breaches of Statutory duty, either under the Act or regulations, had been established. There had not been the slightest evidence to suggest that at any time before the accident there was any explosive or ignition of gas anywhere, even of a minor nature, in the Colliery.

On the day of the accident air samples were taken. There was no duty upon the management to take these air samples, and it was very praiseworthy that these additional precautions had been taken. These air samples showed no methane whatever in the atmosphere. When precisely gas began to enter the mine was unknown, but it must have preceded the accident by a comparatively short time.

Mr A. S. Lockhart, Ayr, who represented the National Association of Colliery Managers and the British Association of Colliery Management, submitted that there was no evidence that any manager was not doing his duty properly, was forgetting, or slacking. The management made proper supervision. He said that there was an adequate system of ventilation and that effective measures were taken to deal with coal dust. When the curtain finally fell on the tragic night of November 19 and the dust finally settled the cause of this accident would forever be shrouded in mystery.

Mr Barth Walsh, secretary of the National Association of Colliery Overseers, Deputies and Shotfirers, suggested that the Ministry of Power should be recommended to increase the staff of inspectors in the Ayrshire district, and that he should not observe the economies which appeared to be the rule of the present Government.

The Scottish Area of the N.U.M. was represented by Mr Alex. Moffat, Vice-President, and Mr John Wood, General Secretary.

CHIEF INSPECTOR'S REPORT

(July 17 Issue)

In his report, published last week, on the disaster at Kames Colliery on November 19, 1957, when 17 miners were killed and 12 injured, Sir Harold Roberts, Chief Inspector of Mines, urges that the National Coal Board should forthwith prohibit below ground the presence of naked flame in any form.

According to the report, the explosion was originated by a workman striking a match in order to smoke, which he was quite entitled to do in what had always been regarded as a "safe" mine, but the inescapable conclusion from the disaster was that "no coal mine can be regarded as immune from the danger of explosion."

The accident at Kames was the worst for six years. The pit was considered so safe that it had been used for experimental blasting practice.

After full consideration of the evidence given and the submissions made at the inquiry, Sir Harold had reached the con-

clusion that a mixture of firedamp and air near the face of an unventilated heading in the Six Feet Section of the West Mine Area of the Colliery had been ignited by a match; that this caused an explosion sufficiently violent to raise an inflammable cloud of coal dust; and that the explosion continued thereafter as a coal dust explosion.

Primary Cause of Explosion

The primary cause of the explosion was failure to ventilate and to make thorough inspections for gas in the heading.

The deputies had frankly admitted that they had rarely carried flame safety lamps during their general inspections, and by no means regularly during their pre-shift inspections. "I have grave doubts whether, even when they carried them, they made thorough tests for firedamp as they were required to do," states the report.

"The attitude of the deputies was epitomized by one of them, who said in evidence, 'I never dreamed about gas.' It must be said, however, that they were not alone in this respect; their attitude was reflected in the failure of the management to observe good ventilation practice and to take effective measures against coal dust, in spite of the high volatile content of the coal."

The Chief Inspector adds that he is satisfied that these failures were not due in any way to the mine being, at the time of the explosion, in the charge of a temporary manager.

Clearly the safety standards at the mine, at least as regards the risk of explosion, were not of a very high order. Having said that, however, it would be quite unrealistic not to recognise that most mining men would have thought the mine immune from such risk because of the general dampness of the roads and the fact that firedamp was unknown in any practical sense.

No Coal Mine Immune

But no coal mine could be regarded as immune, and proper precautions must be taken at all times, even if in the minds of some people they were, in the popular phrase of the day, just "bull."

Sir Harold was satisfied from the evidence that the explosion originated near the face of the north-westerly extension of Casagrande's Level, which for four days had neither been ventilated nor thoroughly inspected; that when two workmen went into it to see what work might be necessary, one of them struck a match, in order to smoke, which he was entitled to do, and that this originated firedamp.

Kames workings were thought to be so damp that the coal dust present could not be raised into an explosive cloud. Nobody had ever contemplated the possibility of an explosion, naturally enough, workmen were allowed to smoke.

Such was the mistaken feeling of immunity that simple precautions were not observed. The ventilation, particularly of blind ends, was not what it should have been, the sampling of the road dust and the application of stone dust were inadequate, and the statutory inspections for gas were either ignored altogether or made in a most perfunctory manner.

It was the tragically simple story of a combination of errors and misjudgments not of great danger individually but together leading to disaster—a story paralleled time and time again in mining history, and far too frequently in the past few years.

The inescapable conclusion was that no coal mine could be regarded as immune from the danger of an explosion, and he therefore recommended that the National Coal Board should, as a matter of policy, forthwith prohibit below ground the presence of naked flame in any form, and by the 31st December, 1960 (the date from which "mixed light" mines are prohibited) make all their mines safety lamp mines in every sense.

Co-operation Essential

Such a step, to be fully effective, would need the co-operation of the workmen, but he was confident that the National Union of Mineworkers would give it their full support.

Of regulations regarding inflammable dust, the report says that these must be given the most liberal interpretation. Managers must ensure full compliance with the requirements about dust suppression and the use of incombustible dust.

Rescue Work

With regard to rescue teams, the report comments that although it was known at the surface by 7.50 p.m. that an explosion had occurred, it was not until 11.15 p.m. that the first rescue brigade left the fresh air base to explore the affected area.

In this instance the delay did not have the slightest effect upon the possibility of saving life, but in other circumstances it might have done. Where permanent rescue corps were maintained it was possible to get a brigade to the scene much more quickly, and he recommended that this system should be extended to all central rescue stations, without reducing the present strength of the mine brigades.

The primary responsibility for ensuring that statutory requirements were complied with must always rest with the manager, but he could not discharge that responsibility effectively without the active co-operation of everybody in the industry. This matter was being investigated by a sub-committee of the Safety and Health Committee of the Coal Industry Consultative Council, and he had great hopes that the results would go a long way towards achieving that co-operation, but there must be between the manager and the deputies a two-way system of communication of a more effective kind.

Tribute

The report also pays tribute to those persons who, although in comparative safety when the explosion occurred, had risked their lives to do what they could to help their workmates.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The Relief Fund set up after the Kames Colliery Disaster was officially closed in April, when the Committee reported that the magnificent total of £39,173 had been reached, and all who in any way had contributed to the success of the fund were heartily thanked.

It is not possible to estimate the number of individual donors, since collieries, trade unions, and a number of townships and communities organised and consolidated their collections, but the number of individual donations sent direct to the Treasurer was over 1,500. Over 700 people subscribed to the Muirkirk door-to-door collections, and similar collections were made in neighbouring towns and villages. Lists were placed on the counters of all Banks in Scotland for four weeks in November-December, and it is estimated that over 11,000 persons contributed by this means, and £17,728.10s 11d was received from these lists.

All donations of £1 and over, and all donations sent direct, were acknowledged where the donors had supplied a name and address. Over 2,500 acknowledgements were prepared and posted, and several more have been handed out. Correspondence with the Press, B.B.C. and I.T.V., with donors and organisers of special efforts and civic heads has involved the sending of about 400 letters. The biggest incoming mail was on 25th November—The Monday following the broadcast appeal of Friday, the 22nd—when 181 donations were received. On the 26th the number was 137. Scarcely a day passed from then until the end of March

without something coming in for the Fund. Up to Mid-January it was unusual if the day's total was not in three figures.

Personal donations have ranged from 6d to £50. Four persons each sent £50 to the Fund, two of whom gave no name, and address. Contributions have come from as far afield as America, Canada, Venezuela and Australia, and from various other places abroad. In this country they have arrived from Shetland in the North and from Jersey in the South. The donors were from all walks of life, earls and admirals, old age pensioners and schoolchildren.

So far as can be ascertained, the amount contributed by the people of Muirkirk to this generous effort was £2,362 0s 9d, a very fine total for a small community. This does not take into account the amount contributed by them through the raffle, for which a beautiful television was gifted by Mr Alex. Little and a radio set by Ultra, and from which a very considerable sum was raised.

We understand that annuities have been bought which will provide the widows of the disaster victims with an allowance of £13 a month during their life time, as well as 10s per week for each child under 16 years of age. Each child will also receive £52 10s worth of Savings Certificates, and the balance left will be divided among the widows to give them not less than a further £40.

It is very gratifying indeed that such a grand response has been made to the appeals for The Fund, and we should also never forget our debt to the officials and Committee for a grand job well done.

(Concluded)



KAMES COLLIERY

After Reconstruction, 1960

SEEN AND HEARD

On 16th January the Black Bull Hotel changed its name (again) to the Eglinton Arms Hotel. The proprietors were Mr and Mrs Raine.

Mr A. Bryden, Stationmaster at Muirkirk, was transferred to Stranraer Harbour. He was replaced by Mr James Grant.

Alex. McManus completed 45 years service as an engine driver at Muirkirk depot.

Mrs Morah Love co-opted as member of Ayr County Council following the resignation of Mr George M. Bain.

Muirkirk E.U. Church celebrated its 159th Anniversary.

Mr James Purdie co-opted to Cumnock District Council.

Mr James Gibson took over confectionery business from Mr Brown at 109 Main Street.

New houses at the Stile occupied, but the street has been named "The Style" and not "The Stile" as it should have been spelled.

Mr William P. Smith, miner, of Colthart Drive, left an estate valued at £5,786.

British Legion premises in Smallburn opened by Miss Jean Findlay.

In the May competition of Muirkirk Angling Association a record 123 lbs. was weighed in.

A trout weighing 5½-lbs. and measuring 25 inches long was caught by Ian Mitchell on local waters.

Muirkirk Junior Secondary School sports champions for 19587 were:—Boys—Jim McMorran; Girls—Irene McCulloch.

Mr Peter McNally's greyhound dog, "Simmerdown Pal," ran at the Greyhound Derby Final at the White City, but was unplaced.

The Dux of Muirkirk J.S. School was Mary B. McLaughlan.

The Rev. W. B. Stewart, Minister at Muirkirk E.U. Church, left for a similar position in Garlieston in Wigtonshire.

New houses at Carruthers Park occupied.

Con. John Cran resigned from Muirkirk Police, and two new constables were appointed—James Gaffney and John Inglis.

James Pringle, gent.'s hairdresser, transferred his business from Victoria Buildings to 89 Main Street (Victoria House).

Hardware Department of Muirkirk Co-operative Society opened at Pagan Walk.

New houses occupied at Kirkgreen.

In the five competitions of Muirkirk Angling Association the total catch was 461 lbs. 15 ozs—surely a record.

ECHO FROM THE PAST

A unique rail excursion was run from Lanark to Muirkirk on Saturday, 26th April, when the old Caledonian locomotive, No. 123, in her bright "Caley" blue, pulled two former Caley coaches to Muirkirk, with about 100 passengers aboard. Special tickets were issued for this "old time" excursion and the passengers were allowed to keep these as souvenirs. It is noteworthy that Locomotive 123 was built 72 years ago and took part in the famous "races" from London to Scotland on the London-Edinburgh run at the end of last century. She had a top speed of 75 miles an hour, and had many fine achievements to her credit. The visit was more or less unheralded, and very few folks in Muirkirk saw this gallant veteran of bygone days.

PRESENTATION TO REV. CHRIS JACK

Mr A. J. Glashan, Chairman of the Congregational Board of Muirkirk Parish Church, presided over a large and representative gathering in the Church Hall, Glasgow Road, on 23rd April, when the Rev. Chris Jack and his good lady received presentations to mark their way-going to St. Andrew's Church, Nanaimo, B.C., Canada.

The Chairman paid his own special tribute to Mr Jack, and other speakers representing the various Church organisations, all spoke in the highest terms of Mr Jack's work, counsel, and friendship.

Mr James Auld, Session Clerk, in making the presentation to Mr and Mrs Jack, said that on behalf of all the people of Muirkirk it was a privilege and a pleasure to speak in appreciation of Mr Jack's six years ministry at Muirkirk. He had come untried in the ministry, but one did not come through the last war without knowing something of life. He had been of inestimable value in his work.

Mr Jack had been Chaplain to the Life Boys, the Boys' Brigade, the British Legion, and Muirkirk J.S. School. He had been Chairman of the Old Folks' Welfare Committee from 1952 till 1955 and Honorary President since then. In Ayr Presbytery he was Vice-Chairman of the Youth Committee, and a member of the Youth Management Committee, and the Evangelical and Oversight Committee, while he had also undertaken two fairly difficult tasks—as an Assessor Elder at New Cumnock and Interim Moderator at Catrine.

Mr Jack had visited Ballochmyle Hospital every Thursday, Seafield once a month, and Glengall, Holmhead, Irvine Central, Ayr County, and Glasgow Hospitals when he knew of Muirkirk patients there. All this was in addition to his routine work of funerals, baptisms, weddings, etc.

Whether it was the strain of all this work or because of the vagaries of this climate, it was a fact that at the beginning of every other year he invariably fell sick and it fell to him (Mr Auld) to arrange pulpit supply. Yet he could say he never saw or heard anyone in the pulpit that he would rather have had than Mr Jack. His ministry had not been an easy one, yet he had found much happiness in Muirkirk. During the prolonged illness of Mrs Jack he had been sustained, comforted and uplifted.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1967

Births	29 (24)
Marriages	35(33)
Deaths	47 (26)

The figures in brackets are for 1966

Mr Auld reviewed the happenings in the Church life of Muirkirk over the period of Mr Jack's ministry and the part he had played. The congregations of Wellwood and the Parish churches had been knit into one whole. Kames and Glenbuck had ceased to exist, and the Parish Church had been rebuilt out of its burnt-out shell. Then in October last, they had witnessed the triumph of ministerial and congregational effort in the transformation of Wellwood Church into a fine suite of halls.

In the following month, however, had come the terrible calamity of the disaster at Kames Colliery, and no man had worked harder than Mr Jack to bring solace and comfort to a sorrowing people.

Mr Jack was kindly, generous to a fault, and the friend of many. If anyone could take pride of achievement in doing God's work, then Mr Jack could do so. He was sorry Mr Jack was leaving, but he was proud and happy to have known him. It was the heartfelt wish of their many friends in Muirkirk that Mr and Mrs Jack, Christine and Graham, would prosper and have much happiness and success in their new home in British Columbia.

Mr Auld said he had much pleasure in asking Mrs Jack to accept a marcasite brooch, and Mr Jack a wallet of notes, appropriately inscribed, "In appreciation from members and friends of Muirkirk Parish Church."

Mr Jack, who was obviously moved by the many sincere and spontaneous tributes of the speakers, feelingly replied. This was one occasion, he said, when he found himself with few words to say—there was plenty in his heart, but he did not know how to say it. Many times since coming to Muirkirk he had been sustained, uplifted, encouraged, and even, when needed, given a kick in the pants. He thanked the speakers for their kind words and the people of Muirkirk for the gifts they had received, while he paid special tribute to the members of the Kirk Session, and in particular the office-bearers, for their great help during his ministry. With such capable men in charge of affairs in Muirkirk, he left with the knowledge that the Church was in good hands. It was of some moment that this little village should be known throughout Ayrshire for its Church, its Church buildings, and its generosity in many fields, and it had been a privilege to speak as Minister of Muirkirk. He had experienced kindness and help here which could not be excelled anywhere, and it was not from Kirk folk alone but from everybody in the village. He regarded that kindness as a part of the mercy of God, and it was his prayer that his successor would have the same support, loyalty and friendship.

While going with full hearts, Mr Jack said he felt they were not leaving Muirkirk; rather they were taking it with them, and they would be supported in the days ahead by memories of the village, which would be constantly in their thoughts. If ever anyone from Muirkirk was in Vancouver, they would receive a warm welcome such as they never had before.

The evening was brought to a close with the singing of the 23rd Psalm.

OBITUARY

Mr THOMAS McCARTNEY

Mr Thomas McCartney, whose death at Kilmarnock Infirmary was announced in May, was for some time Gas Manager at Muirkirk, and was well known and highly respected in our district. A native of Ireland, Mr McCartney had been Gas Manager in several Ayrshire towns—Muirkirk, Stevenston, Stewarton and Galston. Of these, only Muirkirk makes its own gas now, and after Galston took its supply from Kilmarnock, Mr McCartney was for a short time Clerk of Works at Cumnock. He was looking forward to taking up the appointment of Manager at Girvan when his illness intervened. He is survived by his wife and two married daughters.

Mr WILLIAM McKAY.

One of our well-known and highly respected older inhabitants, Mr William McKay, passed away at his home at 10 Garrohill on 23rd May. He was 81 years of age. A miner, Mr McKay had worked over 50 years in the pits, and retired a number of years ago. He was very keenly interested in Muirkirk Bowling Club, of which he was a past President, and when the funeral took place to Muirkirk Cemetery the Club flag was flown at half-mast as a token of respect.

Mr DONALD McCALLUM

Mr Donald McCallum (39), farmer at Linburn, Muirkirk, died very suddenly on 2nd June. He had not been keeping well for some time past, but was carrying out his duties about the farm on the day of his death. Mr McCallum leaves his wife, a daughter aged eight years and a son aged five years.

Mr W. H. MARTIN

Muirkirk folks in many parts will learn with regret of the death at Dollar on 9th June of Mr William H. Martin, who was for thirteen years Missionary-in-Charge at Kames Mission Church, Muirkirk, until his retiral in August, 1950. Previously he had served in the Mission field at New Lanark and Cambuslang. During his sojourn in Muirkirk, Mr Martin became a well-known and highly-respected figure, taking a keen interest in the community as well as the Church, and he was every ready to serve his fellow men. Kindly and modest, he was indeed a Christian gentleman in the fullest sense. Keenly interested in youth, it was he who founded the 1st Muirkirk Company of the Boys' Brigade, with its junior section, the Life Boys, and which has flourished ever since. He was also a Chaplain of the local Loyal Orange Lodge. Mr Martin was predeceased by his wife a number of years ago, and leaves two sons and a daughter.

Miss MARION BROWN

About 9.40 p.m. on 27th June, Miss Marion Brown, fruiter and confectioner, 116 Main Street, took suddenly ill in her bed in the living room of her home while talking to Police Sergeant Hall and Mr Tom Rorrison, and died about half-an-hour later. Miss Brown, who was 62 years of age, was very well known in Muirkirk, and along with other members of her family, she carried on business for many years, latterly on her own. She had been in failing health for some time.

Mr JAMES WALLACE

Older readers the world over will note with regret the passing of one of our older residents, in the person of Mr James Wallace, who passed away at his home at 15 Park Terrace on 2nd July, at the age of 81 years. Mr Wallace came to Muirkirk as a young man from the East of Scotland, and for very many years he was one of the leading lights in local musical circles, and as such he will feature in happy youthful recollections of many of the older Muirkirk folks. A violinist of considerable talent, he played in local orchestras of happy memory—the Amateur Orchestra and the Free Church Orchestra, while for a long number of years Wallace's Dance Orchestra delighted the youth of the village and the surrounding district on social occasions. In the silent days of the cinema, too, Wallace's Orchestra was a feature of the entertainment at the Picture House in the old Temperance Hall. For many years he worked in the mines, and it was a remarkable feature of his prowess that despite the calloused hands which toils in the mines make inevitable, he had a delicate touch which showed to advantage in his solo work. He retired from work and musical activities a number of years ago, and had been in failing health for some years. He is survived by his wife and grown-up family.

Mr JOHN YOUNG, J.P.

Muirkirk folks of an older generation learned with regret of the passing of Mr John Young, J.P., on 13th September at 49 South Hamilton Street, Kilmarnock. Mr Young was a native of Hurlford and, following in his father's footsteps, he entered the employ of Messrs. Wm. Baird & Co., a firm he was to serve for 58 years. He was first engaged in the Hurlford office, then at Lugar, following which he was appointed cashier at the Works at Muirkirk. During his long sojourn in Muirkirk, Mr Young took a great interest in the public life of the village, and became one of the best known and most highly respected gentlemen in the district. He was Chairman of Muirkirk School Board, a member of the Parish Council, representative to the District Committee of the County Council, and President of many local societies. He was an elder of Muirkirk Parish Church, and a Justice of the Peace for the County of Ayr. As honorary treasurer of the Parish War Relief Fund Committee he handled many thousands of pounds in this capacity in the First World War. A keen horticulturist, a lover of music, and an enthusiastic golfer, Mr Young was regarded as the stock chairman at local concerts and whist drives, and indeed, few men gave more of their time and money to help any deserving cause than Mr Young of Springhill. He retired to Kilmarnock a good number of years ago, and is survived by his wife.

DOUBLE WEDDING

Quite a unique double wedding ceremony was conducted by the Rev. J. C. Glennie in Muirkirk Parish Church on 2nd August, when the contracting parties were Mr Ian Mitchell who was married to Mary Kirkwood Bone; and Mr John McMorran, who was married to Miss Barbara Gibson Bone. The best men were brothers of the grooms, Mr Blyth Mitchell and Mr Jim McMorran, and each bride acted as bridesmaid on her sister's behalf

PARISH CHURCH INDUCTION.

On Wednesday, 22nd October, Rev. John P. Tierney, M.A., formerly of Gallatown Parish Church, Kirkcaldy, was inducted as Minister of Muirkirk Parish Church, in succession to the Rev. Chris. Jack.

Mr Tierney was educated at Clydebank High School and Glasgow University. He took a Theological Course at Edinburgh, and started his ministry in 1944 in the Anderston district of Glasgow, where he spent four years. After six years in Greenock he went to Gallatown in 1954. For the past three years he has been Convener of the Church Extension Committee of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy.

ON S.T.V.

Muirkirk Junior F.C., who had accounted for two fancied Glasgow Clubs in the first two rounds of the Scottish Cup, entertained Rutherglen Glencairn in the third round at Ladeside Park. Scottish Television gave the event full coverage, with interviews with Mr Michael Boland, the Club Secretary, and Mr Alex. Dempster. "Sanny" took the limelight with his recollections of football in the old days. The cameras were at the game itself, with highlights being shown in the evening. It was pity that Muirkirk had lost the tie by 2—1, but at least the Club had made history—the first time a junior football match had been televised.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

The codfish lays a million eggs,
The little hen but one;
But the codfish never cackles
When her little stunt is done.
And so we praise the artful hen,
The codfish we despise,
Which clearly shows to thinking men
It pays to advertise.

FOOTBALL (Season 1957-58)

Muirkirk Juniors beat Auchinleck Talbot 2-1 in the opening game of the season, but then went six games without a win, but their fortunes changed when in the 1st Round of the West of Scotland Cup they beat Shawfield Juniors 3-1 at Ladeside Park. The team was:—Anderson; Connell, Goldie; Smith, McQueen, Johnstone; Hendry, Brown, Symington, Black, Sharpe.

In the 1st round of the Scottish Cup Muirkirk defeated Port Glasgow at Ladeside Park 3—1. The team was the same as above.

In the second round of the Scottish Cup Muirkirk had another great result when they accounted for Johnstone Burgh in a thrilling encounter at Ladeside, finally emerging winners by 2—1. The Juniors got a bye in the 3rd round.

Muirkirk improved with every game and at the turn of the year were sitting proudly at the top of the League.

A Ne'erday fixture in the fourth round of the Scottish Cup saw Aberdeen Hall Russell's as the visitors at Ladeside. The Juniors won easily by 5—0. Team:—Anderson; Connell, Goldie; Smith, McQueen, Johnstone; Grinley, Symington, Gallacher, Brown, Black. Local boy Adam Black scored twice for Muirkirk, with Symington (2) and Grinley being the other scorers.

In the 5th round Muirkirk were drawn away to Parkhead and returned with a well-merited 1-1 draw. The team was:—Anderson; Connell, Goldie; Smith, McQueen, Johnstone; Sharpe, Symington, Gallacher, Brown, Grinley. Symington

scored for Muirkirk after three minutes, but Parkhead equalised five minutes later. In the second half Symington missed a penalty for Muirkirk. The Juniors lost the replay at Ladeside 1-0, Adam Smith's penalty kick being saved by the Parkhead 'keeper. Despite putting up a determined display, Muirkirk lost the only goal of the match with 15 minutes left for play. The team was the same as in the first game.

In the run in for the League championship a surprise defeat at Lugar and a draw with Nithsdale Wanderers saw Muirkirk surrender the League Flag to Whitletts Victoria with only one point separating the teams.

WESTERN LEAGUE
South Section

	P	W	D	L	F	Goals	
						A	Pts
Muirkirk	16	10	4	2	36	28	24
Craigmark	16	9	2	5	37	22	20
Cumnock	15	8	3	4	54	17	19
Annbank	17	9	1	7	5	39	19
Hurlford	19	6	6	6	33	43	18
Whitletts	13	8	1	4	33	21	17
Glenafton	16	7	3	6	55	38	17
Kello Rovers	15	6	3	6	34	37	15
Lugar Boswell	14	6	2	6	40	33	14
Maybole	17	4	5	8	35	57	13
Darvel	14	5	0	9	29	46	10
Nithsdale W.	15	3	3	9	26	42	9
Auchinleck T.	13	2	1	10	26	48	5

MUIRKIRK JUNIOR F.C., 1953-54

(Undeclared for Seventeen Games)

BACK ROW—(?), Connel, Dagostino, Murray, Dolan, Torbett, Haugh

FRONT—Smith, Hanlon, McLeod, Clelland, McDowall, Muir, Collins



LOCAL STATISTICS — 1958**BIRTHS**

- LEES.—At Kilmarnock on 5th January, to Mr and Mrs James Lees (Jean Beck); a son.
- DAVIDSON.—At Manchester on 6th January, to Mr and Mrs Joe Davidson; a son.
- McCARTNEY.—At Irvine on 24th January to Mr and Mrs Alex. McCartney (Nancy Alston); a daughter.
- MARTIN.—At Glasgow on 17th February to Mr and Mrs Ross Martin, a son; great grandson for Mr Wiliam H. Martin.
- SAMSON.—At Vancouver on 29th May to Mr and Mrs Hugh Samson (Bunty Cluckie); a son.
- STRICKLAND.—At Douglas on 17th August to Mr and Mrs Peter Strickland; a son.
- HILL.—At Bulawayo, Rhodesia, to Mr and Mrs Tom Hill (Molly Miller); a daughter.
- LAWRIE.—At Irvine on 12th November to Mr and Mrs James Lawrie (Bess Fulton); a son.
- DAVIDSON.—To Mr and Mrs James Davidson (Basilla Loggie); a daughter.

MARRIAGES

- JAMES TAYLOR to ELIZABETH CRAWFORD on 28th February.
- JAMES McBIRNIE to SHEENA TAYLOR on 15th March.
- HAMILTON FLEMING to ELEANOR LOCHHEAD on 21st March.
- GRAHAM McCORRIE to CHRISTINA DUNSMORE on 22nd March.
- RICHARD ROBB to MARY NELSON on 22nd March.
- THOS. WILSON to AGNES LIVINGSTONE on 29th March.
- DAVID SAMSON to JEAN GUTHRIE on 7th June.
- RICHARD BROWN to MARGARET SIMPSON on 14th June.
- JACK McLAUGLAN to AUDREY PATTERSON on 19th July.
- JOHN FEARNs to JEAN McCOUBRIE on 26th July.
- IAN MITCHELL to MARY BONE on 2nd August.
- JOHN McMORRAN to BARBARA BONE on 2nd August.
- HUGH BARBOUR to ELIZABETH STRICKLAND on 2nd August.
- GEORGE WEIR to MARION DUNSMORE on 2nd August
- THOMAS MURPHY to ANNETTE JACK on 9th August.
- TOM MORRISON to HELEN McNAB on 6th September.
- JAMES WILSON to NAN GIBB on 4th October.
- WILLIAM BONE to ANN CONQUER on 11th October.
- JOHN THOMSON to MARION HAMILTON on 18th Oct.
- ADAM SMITH to JEAN WOOD on 29th November.

DEATHS

- CAMPBELL.—At 9 Meanlour Drive on 7th January, Allison Moffat, aged 72 years.
- KELLY.—At 44 Henderson Drive on 6th January, John Kelly, aged 69.
- RODGER.—At Paisley, James Rodger.
- McFEGAN.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 11th January, David McFegan, aged 81 years.
- MUIR.—At Holytown on 5th January, James Muir.

DEATHS (Continued)

- PARK.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 10th January, Janet Ann Miller, of 30 Lapraik Avenue; aged 77 years.
- WILLOCK.—At Beckenham on 19th January, George Willock, late of Muirkirk; aged 88 years.
- STEIN.—At 37 Garronhill on 19th January, James Stein, aged 65 years.
- FERGUSON.—At 27 Kames Row on 23rd January, Daniel Ferguson, aged 57 years.
- KIRKWOOD.—At 37 Henderson Drive on 28th January, Isabella Wilson, aged 46 years.
- LOCHRIE.—At 9 Smallburn on 2nd February, William Ramage Lochrie, aged 67 years.
- McCULLOCH.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 9th February, Grace Watson Wardrop, of 49 Garronhill; aged 60 years.
- COOKE.—At Killoch on the 14th February, as the result of an accident, Patrick Cooke, aged 21 years.
- ROSS.—At 7 Wellwood Avenue on 17th February, Mary Welsh, aged 70 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At Blantyre on 21st February, Robert Pearson, late of Ironworks Cottages; aged 80 years.
- MILLAR.—At Glasgow on 23rd February, Mary Seymour.
- MORAN.—At 4 Smallburn Drive on 14th February, Rose Higgins, aged 71 years.
- MARSHALL.—At 139 Main Street on 1st March, Janet Gemmell Dalziel, aged 38 years.
- LAIDLAW.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 6th March, James Laidlaw, of Wellwood Street; aged 64 years.
- WILSON.—At 2 Railway Buildings, Smallburn, Margaret McWhinney, aged 80 years.
- BARR.—At Hereford on 13th March, Arthur Gellatly, aged 37 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 26th March, William Davidson, of 116 Henderson Drive; aged 59 years.
- ANDERSON.—At 4 Stitt Place on 7th April, Kate Bell, aged 60 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 9th April, Jane Mathieson, of Irondale Cottage
- SHAW.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 22nd February, Elizabeth Wilson, of 135 Main Street.
- SHIELDS.—At a Hospital on 2nd April, John Wilson Shields, late of Victoria Buildings, aged 84 years.
- HAUGH.—At 93 Main Street on 9th April, William Haugh, aged 77 years.
- WILSON.—At Holmhead Hospital on 14th April, Helen Reid, of 9 Wardlaw Avenue; aged 76 years.
- HOGG.—At 8 Hareshaw Crescent on 17th April, Thomson Hogg; aged 81 years.
- SAMSON.—At U.S.A. on 21st April, John Samson, late of 4 Kames Row.
- MORELAND.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 25th April, Andrew Moreland, 3 Middlefield Drive; aged 81 years.
- KEAN.—At 60 Colthart Drive on 4th May, Mary Dalziel, aged 77 years
- GIBSON.—At Forth on 10th May, Robert Gibson, late of Muirkirk; aged 81 years

DEATHS (Cont.)

McCARTNEY.—At Kilmarnock on 12th May, Thomas McCartney (Gas Manager); aged 57 years.

McKAY.—At 10 Garronhill on 23rd May, William McKay, aged 81 years.

McCALLUM.—At Linburn Farm on 2nd June, Donald McCallum, aged 39 years.

MARTIN.—At Dollar on 9th June, William H. Martin (late of Kames Mission Church).

HAMILTON.—On 28th June, Sarah Lindsay, aged 74 years.

NELSON.—At Glasgow on 1st July, Alexander Nelson, of 53 Henderson Drive.

RUSSELL.—At 4 Miller Road on 30th June, Margaret Ewing, aged 40 years.

BROWN.—At 116 Main Street on 27th June, Marion (Minnie) Brown, Fruiterer; aged 62 years.

SIMPSON.—At Killearn on 5th July, Robert Simpson, aged 26 years.

WALLACE.—At 15 Park Terrace on 2nd July, James Wallace, aged 81 years.

BAIN.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 18th July, Richard Bain (late of Glenbuck); aged 78 years.

SAMSON.—At Ayr on 20th July, Grace Bradford, of 17 Garpel Avenue; aged 38 years.

McNELLIE.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 30th July, Sarah McKean, aged 52 years.

PARK.—At Hamilton on 31st July, Sarah Park (late of Glenbuck); aged 77 years.

FORD.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 10th August, Thomas Ford, of 112 Main Street; aged 29 years.

SMITH.—At Biggar on 6th August, Isabella McKenzie (of Masons Arms Hotel); aged 95.

FORSYTH.—At The Kennels on 21st August, Stanley Forsyth; aged 34 years.

HILL.—At 3 Wellwood Avenue on 22nd August, Ann Black, aged 85 years.

CANNON.—At 14 Hareshaw Crescent on 30th August, Peter Cannon; aged 54 years.

URQUHART.—At Sorn on 8th September, Marion Mitchell.

LINDSAY.—At 26 Hawkshaw Terrace on 17th September, William Lindsay, aged 84 years.

WILSON.—At 81 Main Street on 16th September, James Wilson; aged 68 years.

YOUNG.—At Kilmarnock on 13th September, John Young, J.P., late of Springhill House; aged 58 years.

FERGUSON.—At Ayr on 17th September, Margaret Hannah, of 27 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 83 years.

MARTIN.—At Logan on 25th September, Margaret Moran; aged 46 years.

MURRAY.—At Priesthill on 10th October, Hunter Murray; aged 60 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 17th October, David Dempster, 4 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 58 years.

WELSH.—At Glasgow on 3rd November, Thomas Welsh.

McCAULEY.—In Canada on 26th October, John McCauley, aged 70 years.

WALLACE.—At Main Street on 24th November, Mary Wallace; aged 50 years.

BAIN.—At 44 Shawknowe Avenue on 27th November, Helen Leslie; aged 72 years.

SHORT.—At 40 Colthart Drive on 8th December, Thomas Short; aged 73 years.

STRICKLAND.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 4th December, Isobel Strickland, of 21 Garpel Avenue; aged 5 years.

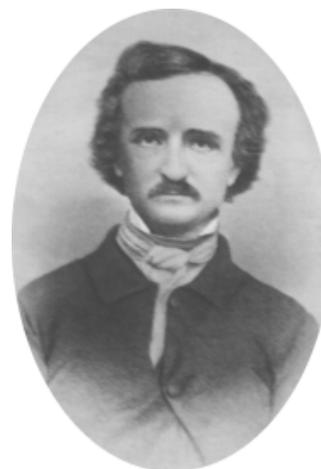
BROWN.—At 19 Wardlaw Avenue on 24th December, Annie Callan, aged 52 years.

McLATCHIE.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 23rd December, David McLatchie, of 14 Hawkshaw Terrace.

CRAIG.—On 28th December, Agnes Hutchieson, late of Glentewing, Crawfordjohn.

KENNEDY.—At 13 Park Terrace on 25th December, Jean Baird, aged 70 years.

ROWE.—At Hamilton, Ontario, on 30th December, James Clark Rowe, aged 38 years (late of Muirkirk).



Colonel J. G. A. BAIRD
of Wellwood



ROBERT KIRKWOOD
Grocer

CHAPTER FIFTY-TWO

(1959)

The Kames Colliery Disaster still dominated the news in 1959, with the following interesting items:

MINERS DEMAND ACTION

A protest against the decision that no legal action should be taken against the N.C.B. officials over the Disaster at Kames Colliery in November, 1957, is being sent to the Minister of Power, Lord Mills, by the Executive of the N.U.M., Scottish Area.

After an Executive Meeting in Edinburgh on Monday (28th January), Mr Abe Moffat said they had received a report from Kames Branch that Lord Mills had written to Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P., indicating that he had decided in the circumstances that legal proceedings would not be justified.

The Executive is drawing attention to specific points made in the public inquiry report where, in the opinion of the Union, there were open breaches of the Coal Mines Act.

Commenting on the primary cause of the explosion—failure to maintain adequate ventilation in the heading where the explosion occurred—Mr Moffat said there had been a definite breach of the regulations, and that Lord Mills, in the face of such evidence, could decide not to take any legal action against officials at Kames Colliery would be greatly resented by miners throughout the British coalfield.

“To-day we are receiving great publicity when miners violate safety regulations, and they are actually being sent to prison,” said Mr Moffat. “The failure to take action on the Kames explosion against officials will only expose that the law is only being operated against the workmen and not against officials. We are calling upon Lord Mills to reconsider his decision, and we call upon the N.U.M. to take this matter up immediately with the miners’ M.P.’s so that it can be raised in the House of Commons.”

RAIL EXCURSION

Members of the Stevenson Locomotive Society visited Muirkirk on 9th May in a special train by way of the old Ayr-Muirkirk passenger line. This was one of the few passenger excursions to use this line since it was closed a number of years ago. The members, who came from all over Scotland, and have travelled over many “closed” lines recently, spent two hours in Muirkirk and took many photographs of the railway sidings., etc.

WAR-TIME RELIC

Hikers on Stoneyhill behind Cairntable in August were interested to find the remains of an aeroplane which crashed during the war still lying around. One of them tells me that some metal parts were still gleaming in spite of eighteen years of exposure. The propeller blade is well carved with the names of Muirkirk visitors to this desolate spot.

ST. THOMAS’ CHURCH

While the major operation of renewing the interior of St. Thomas’ s R.C. Church, which has been badly damaged by dry rot, is going on, Father Conway is conducting his services in the School at Kirkgreen. This is open for this purpose on Saturday evenings and Sundays.

Incidentally, when the damaged woodwork in the Church was being removed, a board with the names of the joiners who were employed at the building of the Church fifty years ago, was discovered. The joiners, who will be remembered by many, were:—Andrew Millar, Thomas Blyth, Alexander Shaw, and ——— McDonald. The date on the board was 15th May, 1906. These men were employees of the late Mr John Wood, who carried on business where Messrs Rowe’s Townhead Garage now stands.

IRONDALE HOUSE

A reader in Prestwick recalls an incident in connection with Irondale House, which has been standing vacant for some time past. This was told to his pupils many years ago by the late Richard Cunningham, F.E.I.S., Headmaster of the Ironworks School.

A stranger came to visit a friend in Muirkirk, and during the visit they took a walk round the village. Coming towards Irondale house the stranger asked who lived in this imposing building. His friend told him that the Works Manager lived there on the ground flat, the Works Doctor on the middle flat, while the Headmaster of the school occupied the top one. The visitor looked at the house, and turning to his friend quietly said:—“The first our workmen manages; the second our workmen bandages; and the third our wee sma’ fry instructs.”

GENERAL ELECTION

South Ayrshire

HUGHES, Emrys, Labour 24,774
 HUNTER, WILLIAM H., Conservative 14,105

Labour Majority .. 10669

RE-OPENING OF ST. THOMAS’ CHURCH

St. Thomas’ R.C. Church, Muirkirk, closed since the middle of May last owing to considerable damage through dry rot, was reopened on Sunday last after extensive repairs to the woodwork and plasterwork of the interior.

Conducting the reopening service was Bishop McGee, Bishop of Galloway and there was a large congregation. Bishop McGee, in commenting on the considerable task of repair which had been undertaken, spoke of the large amount of voluntary work which had been put in by members of the congregation, men and women alike, and all who had contributed in this connection were also heartily thanked by Father Conway.

For the record it can be stated that the furnishings are slightly changed and the interior of the Church now presents a somewhat unfamiliar but very pleasing appearance.

NEW LIBRARY

Muirkirk's new Library at Glasgow Road was opened on 19th January, and nobody, not even our County Councillor, knew anything about it!

It is a fine Library, adequately equipped, and containing several thousand volumes, including a good selection of reference works, with a reference table for the use of students, etc., while the full resources of the County Library will also be available, if required. With Miss Joan Menzies as Librarian, the Library will be open on the afternoon and evenings of three days each week and also on Saturday forenoons, and it should prove a great asset.

But why oh! why, the silence on the part of the County officials responsible? The first discovery of the opening was made by one or two curious passers-by who saw the place open. Do the officials think that the "word of mouth" is good enough for Muirkirk? Everyone we have spoken to thinks it is ridiculous—to us it seems primitive and pathetic.

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC

Alongside the Library is the Child Welfare Clinic and Nurses Home' which also made a somewhat inauspicious entry into the service of the community, but which, happily, has fully justified its inception.

In the old days, of course, child welfare was attended to at fortnightly meetings in the Masonic Hall and the Community Centre, and it is noteworthy that since the opening of the permanent Clinic at Glasgow Road, the numbers of children being brought each fortnight have almost trebled, and now something like 100 children are being handled each month by Nurse Rae and her assistant, Mrs Parker, while once a month Dr Dickson, Welfare Doctor, pays a visit. We can tell Muirkirk mothers that their co-operation is greatly appreciated by the nursing staff, but there is no doubt the willing and excellent service of the staff has a lot to do with the success of the establishment.

A two-storey building with the Clinic on the ground floor and comfortable living quarters for the nurses above, the accommodation for child welfare includes a waiting room, a consulting room, a cubicle room (for weighing babies, etc.), and a welfare room (for the distribution of welfare foods). The nurses' room is also used once a month as a chiropody clinic for local old folks, with a fully qualified chiropodist in attendance.

A FIND

When old furniture belonging to the late Mr William Anderson, Co-operative Buildings, Bridge Street, was being disposed of, a quantity of banknotes and wage packets totalling £300, was tipped out by Mr James Shankly of the local Scavenging staff. Mr Shankly got in touch with the Rev. J. P. Tierney, Parish Minister, the executor of Mr Anderson's will, who said the drawers had already been searched without result, and the money must have fallen into a recess from which it was dislodged when the furniture was turned over, Mr Tierney also said he could not understand why Mr Anderson had kept so much money at home, as he had a Bank and P.O. Account.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The final meeting of the Executive Committee for the Kames Colliery, Muirkirk, Disaster Fund was held in the Bank House on 28th January.

Mr James Masterton occupied the chair and apologies were intimated from members unable to be present, including one from Mr Daniel Sim, the Honorary President. Commander G. H. Hughes-Onslow wrote expressing his regret at being unable to attend, having already accepted a prior engagement, but emphasising his appreciation of the excellent work done by the Committee.

The Auditor's Report was read and the final accounts were read and passed. The Committee expressed their gratitude to the Honorary Auditor, Mr J. Hunter Faulds, of Cumnock, for the efficient way he had carried through this herculean task.

The final accounts were as follows:—

Receipts			
Donations	£38,221	14	7
Other Receipts	658	2	5
Bank Interest	493	17	8
	£39,373	14	8
Payments			
Purchase of Annuities	£36,595	0	0
Immediate Gifts and Cash distributed to dependants	2,124	7	5
Purchase of National Savings Certificates for Children	525	0	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	129	7	3
	£39,373	14	

£6250 FOR MUIRKIRK MINER'S FAMILY

Margaret Pearson Marshall or Archibald, 3 Harwood Avenue, Muirkirk, widow of James Archibald, mine worker, and her three children were awarded damages totalling £6250 in the Court of Session last week (January 31). They sued the National Coal Board for £12,250.

The widow, whose action was for £6000, was awarded £3500. Awards made by the jury to the members of the family were:—Margaret and James, £1000 each; and William, £750. The father of the deceased, William Archibald, retired mine worker, who in addition sued for £1000 was awarded £100.

The pursuers maintained that, while engaged in tipping a wagon at the pithead at Kames Colliery on 29th January, 1956, James Archibald was knocked over from behind by another wagon and killed.

The Coal Board denied liability and claimed that had Archibald fulfilled all the duties incumbent on him the accident would not have happened.

REGISTRY WEDDING

Mr J. N. Harrison, the local Registrar, performed a civil marriage ceremony in the Council Office at Wellwood Street on 18th December. This is the first such ceremony at Muirkirk that we can remember.

OBITUARY**Mrs ELIZABETH HUNTER**

One of Muirkirk's oldest inhabitants, Mrs Elizabeth Hunter, who was in her 89th year, was laid to rest last week (February 11). She was the wife of the late Mr William Hunter, who died 18 years ago, and who carried on a cycle agent's business for many years at Kirkgreen. A native of Dumfries, Mrs Hunter was a daughter of the late James Byers, a well-known builder of that town. She came to Muirkirk 56 years ago, and for the long period of time since she became well known and highly respected in our district. Keen and gifted in many ways, she was a good contralto vocalist in her younger years, played the piano, and sometimes dabbled in rhyme. She had a connection with the local Gospel Hall, and entertained many visiting missionaries over the years.

Mrs JEAN FARRELL

Another death which is announced this week is that of Mrs Jean Farrell at Watford on 13th February. Mrs Farrell was the only child of Mr and Mrs William Muir, and was born at Glenbuck. After spending her early days there she moved to Sanguhar with her parents after the 1914-18 war, and went to Watford in 1938. Her husband is a Glasgow man. Only last July she was the life and soul of her parents' golden wedding celebrations, which we reported in our columns.

Mr ROBERT B. CUMMING

At the morning service at Muirkirk Parish Church Sunday, 22nd February, the Minister, Rev. J. P. Tierney, M.A., made fitting reference to the passing of an old and esteemed elder of the Church, Mr Robert B. Cumming, Ironworks Cottage. Mr Cumming, who came to Muirkirk many years ago as the last Manager of the old Ironworks Store, soon gained the highest respect of our community. He took a keen interest in the work of the Church, and had a long association as a member of the Board of Kames Mission Church.

Mr WILLIAM WALLACE

It was with regret that the villagers learned of the sudden death at Ballochmyle Hospital on 19th March of Mr William Wallace, proprietor of Wallace's Bar. A well-known figure in our district, Bill carried on business as a coal merchant for a good number of years, and about four years ago he took over the bar formerly carried on by Mr David Rennie. A cheery and popular figure, Bill had been in indifferent health for some time past, but the end came unexpectedly, as indeed he was expected home from hospital on Friday. He was 49 years of age, and leaves his wife and young son, George.

Mr WILLIAM HILL

Older readers will learn with regret of the sudden death at Manchester of retired Police sergeant Mr William Hill. A Muirkirk product, Willie was a drummer in the Southside Pipe Band in his young days, and we remember with some affection his prowess in local orchestras and dance bands. After joining Manchester Police Force he became a member of the Police band.

Mrs T. KIRKWOOD

Muirkirk's oldest inhabitant, Mrs T. Kirkwood, died at her home at 26 Garronhill on 30th April. She was in her 93rd year. Mrs Kirkwood, whose maiden name was Margaret Shearer Henderson, was a native of Auchinleck Parish, and came to Muirkirk as a child. She lived in the old Ponesk Row and went to School at Muirkirk. Her husband, Mr Tom Kirkwood, came from Tongue Row, Patna. For many years they lived in Main Street, and the family was well known and highly respected in the district.

Mrs Kirkwood was a remarkable old lady and retained a keen interest in what was going on, as well as tending her garden until just recently. She is survived by a son, Mr Robert Kirkwood (grocer) and five daughters.

Mr JOHN GIBSON MUIR

A well-known Glenbuck man, Mr John Gibson Muir, died at his daughter's home at Denny on 8th July. He resided at Glenbuck Post Office for many years, and only went through to his daughters' several weeks ago. Mr Muir's breezy personality was almost a feature of Glenbuck, whose sons and daughters everywhere will be sorry to learn of his passing. In the old days he ran a car-hire service, and in later years, before his retirement, he took a leading part in demolishing the old furnaces in the district.

THE AULD QUARRY KNOWE

In our column the other week we reproduced an old poem, "The Auld Coutburn Raw," and mentioned that readers might appreciate reading other old verses and songs. One such that came to our mind was "The Auld Quarry Knowe," and we are indebted to Mr William K. Inglis, Kirkconnel, who very promptly obliged by sending on the words. Mr Inglis, is a native of Muirkirk and was born in the Garronhill. Here is the song referred to:-

O weel I mind the time we had in youth's bright sunny days,
When we were pu'in' buttercups on Cathkin's flowery braes;
But better far I mind the days when first my heart took lowe,
When daffin' wi' my Jessie on the auld quarry knowe.

We watched the water wagtail as he skimmed the waterside,
Or cocked upon a mossy stane An' beckoned tae his bride;
Or looked o'er yonder cliffy rock till our heids wad dizzy growe
And we'd haud on by anither on the Auld Quarry Knowe.

I used to think on summer nichts the bellman had gone fu',
When he rang the bells at 10 o'clock I ne'er could think it true;
I ne'er could think tae leave the spot till I heard the hindmost
dong,

I was swear't tae leave my Jessie and the auld quarry knowe.

But noo these days are past and gane, and auld grey-bearded
time

Hath heaped years upon our head, we're far beyond our prime.
But I never can forget these days, though my head is like the
tow,

The daffin' and the coortin' on the auld quarry knowe.

SEEN AND HEARD

Muirkirk J.S. School:—Dux of School, John Wilson; Boys' Sports Champion, James Ramage; Girls' Sports Champion, Irene McCulloch.

James McLatchie won a silver medal at the Scottish Athletic Championships at Meadowbank, finishing second in the Mile event.

Mr John Dempster, 133 Main Street, completed 60 years service in the mining industry.

Irene McCulloch was crowned Co-operative Gala Queen.

Tom Murphy was appointed manager at Muirkirk Co-operative Drapery Department.

A new coal mine has been opened in Ponesk valley. Only three men are employed meantime.

In September news reached Muirkirk of the mining disaster at Auchengeich Colliery, where 47 lives were lost.

Bro. James Johnstone elected Worthy Master of Muirkirk Loyal Orange Lodge.

Laurence Leslie, a 40-year-old brick-worker lost both legs in an accident at Commodityke Brick Works.

Licence for the Eglinton Arms was transferred to Mr William Reid, and that for Wallace's Bar to Mrs Agnes Wallace.

Muirkirk Welfare Athletic Club formed.

Jim McLatchie won the Ayrshire Two Mile Championship at Kilmarnock in 9 mins. 35 secs.

Mr David Muir opened a new Filling Station at Smallburn.

Building started on eight new houses at Bridge Street.

Three young men had a lucky escape when their car overturned into the swamps west of the village. They escaped unhurt.

Muirkirk Old Folks' Club (formerly the Auldhouseburn Golf Pavilion) was officially opened on 2nd December.

The Store Dividend was 1/11 per £ on purchases.

Muirkirk British Legion won Stewart Cup for being the most progressive Branch in Ayrshire in 1958.

"Bag" of 200 hares shot on Middlefield Moors.

West Mine 3rd Annual Ball.

Presentation to Mr Thomas Floyd, Wee Torhill, to mark his retirement after 40 years on the railway.

Mr William Mathieson elected Chairman of Muirkirk Bowling Club.

Miss Jean Kirkwood won Cookery Competition at Cumnock.

Mr James Dempster elected President of Muirkirk Junior F.C.

Six cuckoos seen and heard together at Midhouse.

THE AULD COUTBURN RAW

A reader has kindly loaned us a manuscript copy of a poem, "The Auld Coutburn Raw," written many years ago by Mr Hugh Park, who lived at 21 Old Terrace. We are pleased to reproduce these verses, and the thought occurs to us that there may be other old poems which our readers might like to see in these columns. One such that comes to mind is an old song about the Quarry Knowes, with a line running something like "I was daffin' wi' my Jessie on the auld Quarry Knowes." We will be pleased to hear from any reader who can help. Meanwhile, here is "The Auld Coutburn Raw."

Come listen noo people till my story I tell,
It's on some auld hooses—it's lang since they fell—
On the lands o' Kaimshill, on the road tae the Shaw,
And the name they go under is the Auld Coutburn Raw.

Oh! the Auld Coutburn Raw was a he'rtsome auld place,
And in the Auld Coutburn was mony a strange face;
But noo, since they've left it, and a' gane awa',
The grass growes green roun' the Auld Coutburn Raw.

Fu' blythesome they've sported their youthfu' young days,
Fu' happy an' cheery aboot the glen braes;
But, waes me, since then there's been mony a snaw,
Has fa'en on the stanes o' the Auld Coutburn Raw.

The lav' rock may rise with its dewy wings,
An' into the air he may merrily sing;
And the rest o' the birds their sweet notes may blaw,
But they'll ne'er bring back the pleasure o' the Auld Coutburn
Raw.

Oft-times I ha'e wandered oot the auld Sanquhar Road
An' viewed the auld Coutburn wi' its heavy load;
Say oh! my dear friends, a tear it may draw,
To look at the ruins o' the Auld Coutburn Raw.

Oft-times hae they wandered by yon waterside,
Oft-times hae they wandered in moorlands sae wide,
Oft-times hae they wandered on the side o' Wardlaw,
But their race has been run in the Auld Coutburn Raw.

For noo there's nae pleasure in it tae be seen,
The road to the Coutburn is grown up quite green;
But nature must be, it has ta'en them awa',
Wha used tae reside in the Auld Coutburn Raw.

So now, my dear friends, tho' I've nae skill ava.
Its true what I've said on the Auld Coutburn Raw,
For I had an' auld faither o' sixty an' twa',
Who was ane o' the tenants o' the Auld Coutburn Raw.

THE LATE JAMES BLACKWOOD

The death was announced of Mr James Blackwood, a Muirkirk man who carved a niche for himself in the public administration of the City of Vancouver in Canada. He interested himself especially in education. Mr Blackwood retained a deep affection for his native Muirkirk, and over a long number of years snippets of news and rhymes from his pen have appeared in the "Advertiser."

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1959**BIRTHS**

- McMORRAN.—At Kilwinning on 3rd January to Mr and Mrs John McMorran (Barbara Bone); a daughter.
- FULTON.—At Irvine on 12th January to Mr and Mrs William Fulton (Rena); a son.
- WILSON.—At Irvine on 14th January, to Mr and Mrs T. Wilson (Agnes Livingstone); a daughter.
- MITCHELL.—At Buckreddan on 24th January to Mr and Mrs Ian Mitchell (Molly Bone); a daughter.
- WEIR.—At Dingwall on 4th March to Mr and Mrs R. Weir; a daughter.
- BELL.—At Dewsbury on 22nd April to Mr and Mrs Charles Bell; twin boys.
- BROWN.—At Kilmarnock on 22nd May to Mr and Mrs Richard Brown (Margaret Simpson); a son.
- SAMSON.—At Irvine on 7th June to Mr and Mrs David Samson (Jean Guthrie); a daughter.
- BUTLER.—At Kilmarnock on 19th June to Mr and Mrs John Butler (Betty Little); a daughter.
- HILLDITCH.—At Irvine on 4th July to Mr and Mrs John Hillditch (Sal Samson); a daughter.
- BROWN.—At Kilwinning on 7th July to Mr and Mrs Alan Brown (Marion Harvey); a daughter.
- McCALL.—At Sudbury, Canada on 18th September to Mr and Mrs Alex. McCall (Margaret Bone); a daughter.

MARRIAGES

- JAMES FREW to MARGARET CRUICKSHANK on 6th February.
- PETER TAIT to MARGARET COSGROVE on 7th March.
- SAMUEL PURDIE to ELIZ. HADDOW on 19th March.
- DAVID CONN to HILDA BROWN on 28th March.
- ROBERT DRIFE to MARTHA MURRAY on 24th March.
- FRANCIS BONE to JANET McKEAN on 25th April.
- ANGUS BECK to JANETTA MURDOCH on 11th July.
- WILLIAM McFARLANE to MARY WILSON on 16th July.
- ROBERT HODGE to ELLEN NEAL on 29th July.
- ROGER McBRIDE to AGNES MONAGHAN on 8th Aug.
- JOHN SAMSON (Printer) to JANET KIRKPATRICK on 22nd August.
- JAMES LANG to ISA McKENZIE on 22nd August.
- JAMES LOCHHEAD to MARG. SMITH on 25th Sept.
- ANDREW DICKSON to MARGARET SUTHERLAND on 5th December.
- JOHN GOLD to MOIRA McPHEAT on 5th December.

DEATHS

- BECK.—At 35 Springhill Terrace on 10th January, Mary Samson, aged 82 years.
- RENNIE.—At 46 Pagan walk on 9th January, James Rennie, aged 6 months.
- MURRAY.—At 30 Wellwood Avenue, on 17th January, Harry Murray, aged 85 years.
- BAIRD.—At Kateshall on 21st January, Christina Smith Baird.

DEATHS (continued)

- ANDERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 30th January, John Anderson, Upper Wellwood.
- BROWN.—At Ballochmyle on 30th January, James Percy Brown, aged 85 years (141 Main Street).
- MARTIN.—At Middlesex on 28th January, Grace (Robertson) Rennie, aged 86 years.
- ROSS.—At 45 Glasgow Road, on 29th January, John Ross, aged 85 years.
- HUNTER.—At Kirkgreen Cottage on 8th February, Elizabeth Byers, aged 89 years.
- BENNETT.—At Prestonpans on 13th February, Alexander Bennett, aged 39 years.
- FARRELL.—At Watford on 13th February, Jean Muir.
- CUMMING.—At 2 Ironworks Cottages on 21st February, Robert Cumming.
- MASTERTON.—At 7 Glasgow Road on 20th February, James Masterton, aged 81 years.
- BECK.—At 135 Henderson Drive on 1st March, John Beck, aged 57 years.
- WOODBURN.—At 14 Park Terrace on 1st March, Mary Bell, aged 80 years.
- KELLOCK.—At 97 Main Street on 14th March, Janet Brown, aged 89 years.
- WALLACE.—At Ballochmyle on 19th March, William Wallace, Cairnhill, Smallburn, aged 49 years.
- ANDERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 26th March, William Anderson, of 5 Bridge Street, aged 63 years.
- BAIN.—At 2 Harwood Avenue on 30th March, Richard Bain.
- McDONALD.—At Ballochmyle on 31st March, John McDonald, 31 Shawknowe Avenue, aged 69 years.
- SMITH.—At 26 Harewood Avenue on 31st March, Janet Parker, aged 61 years.
- STRATHEARN.—At Bridge of Earn on 19th March, Elizabeth Kirkhop, aged 73 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At 98 Henderson Drive on 3rd April, Mary Anderson, aged 72 years.
- McLAREN.—At 23 Meanlour Drive on 7th April, Thomas McLaren, aged 74 years.
- STACEY.—At 43 Henderson Drive on 20th April, James Stacey, aged 81 years.
- KIRKWOOD.—At 26 Garronhill on 30th April, Margaret Henderson, aged 93 years.
- ROSS.—At 11 Stitt Place on 26th April, Agnes Samson, aged 78 years.
- BALLANTYNE.—At 1 Shawknowe Avenue on 18th May, Agnes Parker, aged 54 years.
- McISAAC.—At 129 Hendertson Drive on 25th May, Daniel McIsaac, aged 43 years.
- BARRIE.—At Mauchline on 9th June, Helen McSkimming.
- MARSHALL.—At 28 Garronhill on 5th June, Elizabeth Barrie, aged 58 years.
- DUNLOP.—At Ballochmyle on 28th June, Ludovic Dunlop, of 29 Pagan Walk; aged 71 years.
- FYFE.—At Burns Avenue on 10th July, Mary Park, aged 80 years.
- MUIR.—At Denny on 8th July, John Muir (Post Office, Glenbuck).

DEATHS (continued)

- HAMILTON.—At Irvine on 25th July, Gilbert Hamilton, 72 Main Street, aged 2 months.
- NEIL.—At 88 Henderson Drive on 24th July, Margaret Marshall, aged 49 years.
- MURDOCH.—At 4 Colthart Drive on 2nd August, Isabella McMillan, aged 81 years.
- WILSON.—On 4th August, Campbell Wilson, aged 79 years.
- SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 17th August, Mary Flannagan, 31 Meanlour Drive; aged 61 years.
- WILSON.—At 18 Wellwood Avenue on 15th August, John Wilson (Gala Motor Transport Co.).
- TAYLOR.—At Leadhills on 13th August, William Taylor, aged 78 years.
- DRYLIE.—At Glasgow on 3rd September, Maggie Young.
- EASTON.—At 3 Hareshaw Crescent on 7th September, Sarah McCrosbie, aged 51 years.
- GIBSON.—At Coatbridge on 11th September, William Gibson.
- KERR.—In New Zealand on 7th September, Kate Graham
- McSKIMMING.—At Glasgow on 12th September, William McSkimming, aged 77 years.
- MARSHALL.—At 6 Burnside Cottages on 27th September, Catherine Dempster, aged 74 years.
- MITCHELL.—At 4 Bridge Street on 24th October, Christina Law, aged 78 years.
- TAIT.—At 54 Hareshaw Crescent on 8th November, William Tait, aged 50 years.
- NEIL.—At Kames Colliery as the result of an accident on 16th November, Archibald Neil, 5 Hareshaw Terrace; aged 53 years.
- PARK.—At Kames Colliery as the result of an accident on 16th November, David Park, 35 Colthart Drive; aged 25
- IRVINE.—At 2 Colthart Drive on 21st November, Sarah Armstrong, aged 75 years.
- ADAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 26th November, Mary Robb, 42 Garronhill; aged 75 years.
- HILL.—At Manchester on 7th December, William Hill.
- VALLANCE.—In U.S.A. on 2nd December, George Vallance, aged 38 years.
- DEVINE.—At Ayr on 25th December, Margaret Jack, of Albert Cottages; aged 77 years.
- FREW.—At Ballochmyle on 31st December, James Frew, 6 Miller Road; aged 76 years.
- SPROTT.—At Edinburgh on 26th December, Agnes Montgomery, aged 75 years.



KIRKBURNHEAD TOLL

FOOTBALL (Season 1958-59)

Robert Parker, Muirkirk, signed for Huddersfield Town, where the manager is Willie Shankly.

Neil Black, Muirkirk, was transferred to Larkhall Royal Albert.

Muirkirk Schoolboy internationalist, Jim McMorran, signed for Aston Villa.

Jimmy Hodgson was transferred from Kilbirnie Ladeside to Muirkirk.

Muirkirk Juniors got away to a fantastic start in the new season with a resounding 4-1 victory against Auchinleck Talbot at Beechwood Park. The team was:—McGregor; Colquhoun, Craig; Gallacher, McQueen, Johnstone; Vernon, Barr, Sharpe, Hodgson, Ritchie.

This was followed by an overwhelming 5-1 win against Cumnock at Ladeside Park in a Vernon Trophy tie. It was interesting to note that in their two League encounters against Cumnock, at home Muirkirk won 5-0 and away they emerged winners by 1-0. Those were the days!

Muirkirk got off to a tremendous start in the Scottish Cup competition, when in the first round the mighty Ashfield from Glasgow were the visitors to Ladeside. In a pulsating game Muirkirk came from behind with two goals from Bobby Adamson to inflict Ashfield's first defeat of the season. The team was:—Delaney; Connell, Gray; Colquhoun, McQueen, Johnstone; Adamson, Barr, Gallacher, Hodgson, Ritchie.

The second round saw Muirkirk travel to Vale of Clyde. Adamson gave Muirkirk an early lead but the homesters equalised just before the interval. Driving rain made conditions almost impossible, and with only a minute left a lob from Colquhoun skidded in the mud and beat the keeper, and Muirkirk were through. Team:—McGregor; Connell, Gray; Colquhoun, McQueen, Johnstone; Adamson, Aitchison, Gallacher, Hodgson, Ritchie.

In the third Round Rutherglen Glencairn were the visitors to Ladeside Park, the first occasion when STV cameras televised a junior match, and highlights of the match were shown on Saturday evening. It was a tense game, with Muirkirk giving as good as they got, and it was no surprise when Hodgson gave them the lead in the second half, but two late goals from Glencairn put an end to Muirkirk's aspirations. Team—McGregor; Connell, Gray; Colquhoun, McQueen, Johnstone; Adamson, Gallacher, Watson, Hodgson, Ritchie.

That season Muirkirk's Bobby Johnstone was capped for Junior Scotland against Ireland.

In the semi-final of the Ayrshire Cup one of the best games ever seen at Townhead Park, Cumnock, took place between Muirkirk and Glenafton. Muirkirk lost keeper McGregor with a broken jaw, but the team gave a gutsy performance with only ten men. Twice they were in the lead, and only tired legs in the dying minutes saw them succumb 5-4 to the Glens. Hodgson scored all of the goals. Team:—McGregor; Connell, Gray; Gallacher, McQueen, Galloway; McCann, Barr, Boyes, Hodgson, Ritchie.

CHAPTER FIFTY-THREE

(1960)

MEMORIES OF OLD MUIRKIRK

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—I visited the place of my early days during the late summer, and, while standing at the spot where the "pug-gates" at Bankhead used to be, many memories of the past surged through my mind. Since my visit I have had the urge within me to write something about those faraway days, and I hope it may of some interest to you and maybe some of the older generation of Muirkirk.

Bankhead houses, where I spent those early days, alas! are no more, but what memories I have of all that seemed important to me then. What a wonderful place it seemed to my young mind. We had the Pug Line, the canal water stretching past on its way to the Iron Works, the road up to the old cast scree at the Pit; the main railway line; and last, but not least, the old pit.

Locally it was known as Bankhead Pit, but if my memory serves me right, on the engine-room indicator, in fancy printing, was the title, "Auldhouseburn Colliery No. 1." I often wonder how many years this pit would be in production—it must have been a long time.

To we children the Pug Line was a source of great interest. How we used to run to the gate when we heard the shrill whistle of the engine, and old John Wylie, the gate-keeper, would open the gates and then close them and retire to his cabin to await the return of the Pug and its waggons. The Pug was the link between the pits and the Furnaces in Muirkirk, where most of that coal was used. I can still see in my memory "Old Samson" the pug driver, giving the children a pleasant smile and a wave of his hand as the pug and its load rumbled past. I learned later, of course, that this coal came from the Lightshaw Collieries, Nos. 1, 2, and 3. No. 3 was known as Ponesk Colliery, and was close to the Muirkirk-Glenbuck road. Then there was Grasshill Colliery at Glenbuck—all belonging to Wm. Baird & Co.

Just a further word on coal production in the district in those days. In addition to the pits of Baird & Co., there was Barr & Co.'s at Glenbuck, namely "The Galawhistle," "The Davy," and "The Lady Pit," and in Muirkirk there was Wm. Baird's busy Kames Colliery. It was a thriving coal community at that time.

The Canal Water holds many memories of childhood exploits. In the summer we fished it well. There were trout, perch, and eels in it in abundance. In the winter time when it was frozen over many were the happy hours it gave to skaters and curlers in the Basin at the Iron Works.

Many memories I also have of the men and their horses who came to the coal scree at the pit for coal—E. Rowe, old Hughie Strathearn, or Srawhorn as we called him, old James Callan, and many of the local farmers, all of whom we got to know well, and they us.

One great pleasure I must relate concerned "Auld Hughie Murdoch," the blacksmith at the pit. As children, he took us for a walk almost every night of the week. When he came home from his work we used to gather at his house and wait till he had got his dinner. Then, when he did come, with his collie dog, "Lassie," away we would go, a happy band, down the Catchieburn Road, with Auld Hughie ever mindful of our safety. Hughie sometimes got the name of being the most crabbit and bad-tempered man about the pit, but to the children he was a wonderful gentleman.

I can remember setting off for "The Donald School" along with my elder sister and the other children. It was so named after the Headmaster of those days, Mr Alexander Donald. I will always remember him with his swallow-tailed coat, fancy vest, and striped trousers, going round the classrooms with "the tawse" protruding from the pocket in his coat-tail, ever at the ready when action was called for. There were many amusing incidents in the classroom which I still recall most vividly. Some of the other teachers I can remember were Miss Aird, the Infant Mistress, a fine teacher and nice lady. Another was Mr Charles P. Bell. How the glint of mischief and pleasure came into his eye and countenance when he got some of the larger boys out on to the floor for punishment. He could wield the strap to some purpose. I am sure all the teachers did their best to befit us for the life that lay unknown before us. There were few restrictions on the use of the strap then, yet I am sure none of us was a whit the worse of it all.

The Donald Schule teachers have laid the grounding for many clever lads and lassies of Muirkirk. Many have made a distinctive mark in education and commerce at home and abroad, and may they always be proud to say they belong to Muirkirk.

Many happy memories I have of the pranks we played and the times we fished in all the burns and the Canal. By the way, I still have my membership card of the Muirkirk Angling Association for season 1906 or 1907. Our walks in the evenings behind some of us who could play the melodion I still recall, and I remember the Golf Course was opened about that time, and I was among the first members to join it.

All this and a whole lot more passed through my mind as I stood where the pug gates once were. Now, alas, there are no such gates, no canal, no coal scree, no old pit, no Iron Works, and no Bankhead with the miners coming over the road home from where they were let out of the old carriages.

All this I had in my vision as I rather sadly turned back to my son's car which had brought us there—back through the Muirkirk that has greatly changed in those last sixty years.

AN EASTON OF BANKHEAD.

MINISTER FOUND DEAD

The Rev William C. Crawford, Minister of Carluke E.U. Congregational Church, was found dead at the weekend in the kitchen of his manse in John Street, Carluke, by a woman visitor. Death was due to natural causes. Mr Crawford, who was 63, had just accepted a call to Muirkirk E.U. Congregational Church.

CHAIR OF COAL

An upright chair, made entirely of coal, which is to be sold at Sotheby's, London, is reported by the auctioneers to be the only one of its kind ever to come up for auction. It is, however, not unique, as a chair made of coal was among Queen Victoria's treasured possessions.

The curious piece now to be sold was made about 1845, probably in Muirkirk, and is a hall chair with a carved back, moulded seat and scrolled legs overlaid with palm leaves.

It is being sold by a son of the late Mr John McCulloch, Manager at Kames, over thirty years ago, and who resided in Irondale House, who got the chair from his grandfather.

The chair, made of cannel coal, is reputed to be safe to sit on, and guaranteed not to mark the clothes. The chair weighed 422 lbs.

When it came under the auctioneer's hammer, it sold for £60.

JUST A MEMORY

“Two voices are there; one is of the sea,
One of the mountains; each a mighty voice.”

So sang the poet, but to those brought up near moorland there is a third voice—that of the moor, and it goes straight to the heart of the exiles. Therefore it is with nostalgia that I think of my childhood home—a little country town surrounded by moorland, and beyond that a circle of hills, half way up which the carpet of purple heather climbed as if it had been cut too large for the moors on which it was to lie. Not a tree broke the long stretch of heather.

On the moor which I remember best, one could walk for miles without meeting one human creature. Not a sound broke the silence but the call of the peewit, the bleat of a sheep, or the purling of a little brown burn. Over this burn was a tumble-down stone bridge locally called “Tibbie's Brig.” The name of this minor poetess will be unknown to younger generations, but we were proud of the fact that her “ca' the yowes tae the knowes” was given its modern form by Robert Burns.

Over this moor there was a grassy cart-track with only the ruts made by the wheels to show what it had been in bygone days. This is the district of the Covenanters, and in all likelihood Claverhouse and his men galloped over this moorland road.

In my young days on the edge of the moor was the fascinating “Boiling Well.” At that time the well was only about a foot in breadth. Through the centuries it had been gradually filling up with earth. Ceaseless bubbles of water broke on the surface. At one time the well had been so wide that careless sheep had been known to step in and so strong was the suction that they were unable to get out or even to be helped out. Once on a pitch-black night a horse with its rider walked in and was swallowed up.

That lovely, eerie story was probably told to children to keep them out of danger years and years ago when the well was wide. I wonder if the well has vanished and if it is now just a part of the “vacant, wine-red moor,” and with the desolate spot where Tibbie lived is ever guarded by the “winds austere and pure.”

M. S. DONALD

Editor's Note.—The above article will no doubt have increased interest for our older readers when we tell them that it was written by the eldest daughter of the late Alexander Donald, schoolmaster at Muirkirk for forty years (Main Street School was for many years referred to as the Donald School). Miss Donald, who is now 83, adds that very few of her classmates will be alive, but she will be remembered by some, and we all join in sending her our best wishes from Muirkirk. She lives at 32 John Street, Largs.

CO-OPERATIVE GALA

The children's gala day organised by Muirkirk Co-operative Society was held in the Victory Park in July, when the usual activities took place. The highlight was the crowning of the Gala Queen. This year the Queen was Miss Gloria Dones. Her retinue were as follows:—Ladies-in-Waiting—Mary Robson and Susan McDade; Herald—Don Casagrande; Page Boys—James Graham and William Stirling.

GOLDEN WEDDING**GILLEN—HIGGINS**

Readers will join with us in congratulating a well-known local couple, Mr and Mrs Dominic Gillen, 54 main Street, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding in March. They were married at St. Thomas' Church on 10th March, 1910, by the Rev. Father Bohan.

Mr Gillen is a native of Sligo, on the West coast of Eire, and is a veteran of the Boer War, taking part in the actions at Mafeking, Ladysmith, and Colenso. He was demobbed at Ayr, after which he went to stay at Coatbridge, and later came to Muirkirk to stay with his aunt, Mrs Lacey, who lived in Manse Lane. He worked in the mines until his retiral about twenty years ago. He is 84 years of age, and still takes an interest in his Border Fancy Canaries and British Birds, with which he won many prizes.

Born at Waterside, Ayrshire, Mrs Gillen, who is 78, came to Muirkirk at an early age, and is a daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Andrew Higgins, who lived for many years at the Southside.

With the exception of a short spell at Cumnock, Mr and Mrs Gillen have lived all their married life at Muirkirk, and of their family of eight, three sons and two daughters survive. There are nine grand-children.

CHANGES

Progress continues with the new houses at Main Street and Bridge Street, and with the gradual re-building on old sites the village will take on a better aspect in due course. In days to come the new Crescent from Main Street (from just past Crosbie's Shop) down behind the Drill Hall to Furnace Road (at the old Morton Place) should be an improvement to the main part of the village.

Up at Kirkgreen the demolition has been commenced of the old building which was once the Black Bottle Tavern, a well-known howff in the old days.

LICENSING CHANGES

The recent decision of Ayr District Licensing Court, who refused five applications for transfer of licences in Ayrshire to Brewery Firms, was considered by the County Licensing Court of Appeal, and the licences were granted.

So far as Muirkirk is concerned this means brewery interests are taking over the Eglinton Arms Hotel and the Central Bar. The transfer of the licence for the Central Bar severs a link with Muirkirk which has existed for a very long time, as the Dunbar family have held the licence for over 100 years.

IRONDALE HOUSE

A well-known building in our village, Irondale House, facing Furnace Road, has disappeared from the local scene. Home of Mine Managers, Doctors, and other important residents for many years, the building became unoccupied some time ago and was offered for sale. Evidently no one was interested, for in recent weeks demolishers have cleared the site. Thus passes another link with old Muirkirk.

OBITUARY**Mrs MARGARET DEVINE**

Many of our older readers will learn with regret of the recent passing of Mrs Margaret Devine, wife of the late Mr John Devine, who lived for many years at Albert Cottages. Mrs Devine, who was in her 77th year, died at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr and Mrs William Devine, Ayr.

Mrs Devine's passing recalls many happy days in the musical life of Muirkirk, when Mr Devine gave many years of willing service as church organist, choir-master, orchestra conductor, and producer of children's operettas, etc. All that time Mrs Devine worked quietly and enthusiastically behind the scenes, and many of us on very many occasions enjoyed her encouragement and generous hospitality. Muirkirk is all the poorer in losing old friends of this calibre.

Mr HANS McCONNELL

One of Ayrshire's best-known commercial travellers, who retired at the age of 82, died at his home in Ayr on 22nd January. He was Mr Hans McConnell. He was in his 85th years.

Mr McConnell was born and educated in Muirkirk. The son of a miner, he also took up the mining profession, and worked at Grasshill No. 1 Pit at Glenbuck, where he became a well-known and highly respected figure. Ill health forced him to give up mining in 1917.

He became a commercial traveller with the Ayr firm of Andrew Lees & Sons Ltd., and travelled round the villages and towns of Ayrshire for almost 43 years.

He was a deeply religious man and was for many years an elder of the Christian Brethren, Victoria Hall, Ayr. He was a Sunday School Leader for over twenty years.

Mr McConnell's wife predeceased him twelve years ago. He is survived by three daughters.

Several of our well-known older residents have passed away in the past few weeks. Among these were Mr. John Foster Irvine, 2 Colthart Drive, who spent many years at the cottage beside the old Wellwood School, and was a well-known figure in our district. Mr Irvine was 82 years of age.

Then we learned with regret of the death of Mr William Mitchell, 4 Bridge Street, who had a long connection with Muirkirk Parish Church, of which he was an Elder and Sunday School Superintendent for many years. Mr Mitchell was also aged 82 years.

On 17th February we lost Mrs Mary Eadie Duncan Wardrop, aged 85 years, a well-known local lady who, in her younger days, played a prominent part in local war charity and benefit efforts at whist drives and other functions. Mrs Wardrop also had a confectionery shop at Morton Place (next to the School) for a good number of years and she was also a Life Member and Worthy Matron of Wellwood Chapter, No. 159, of the Eastern Star.

These are worthy citizens of the old school who will be remembered with affection.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR JOHN SHANKLY

It was with a sense of deep regret that we learned of the sudden passing, at Hampden Park, Glasgow, during the European Cup Final on 18th May, of Mr John Shankly, 6 Council Houses, Glenbuck.

A member of the famous family of footballers, as a young lad John soon took the eye with his prowess on the football field, and from the junior Cherrypickers of happy memory, he quickly made the grade. His first senior club was Greenock Morton, and subsequently he played for Carlisle United, Luton Town, Portsmouth, Alloa, Kings Park and Larne.

While John will no doubt oft be recalled by the older school as one of the finest footballers ever to come out of the village of Glenbuck, we will also remember him as a kindly and modest personality who gained the respect of all who knew him.

He was 56 years of age, and had been in indifferent health for some time past. Our readers will join with us in expressing our sympathy with the other members of the Shankly family in their sudden and unexpected loss.

Mr JAMES ARTHUR CALDWELL

We regret to learn of the death of Mr James Arthur Caldwell at Melbourne, Australia, on 19th May. A native of Muirkirk, Jimmie was a son of Catherine and the late Alexander Caldwell, once resident in the old Lightshaw Row. Many of our readers will remember the family when they lived at Kirkgreen. For some time prior to his leaving in 1939, James was first-aid and bath attendant at Kames Colliery and was well-known in our district. He served as a medical orderly in the Australian Army in New Britain during the last war. He had been ill for only ten days, and his death was unexpected. Mrs Caldwell, sen., makes her headquarters with her daughter Peggy (Mrs McIntosh) in Neerim South.

Mr DAVID BRADFORD

Mr David Bradford, Vice-President, of Muirkirk Bowling Club, was making his way up to the bowling green on 9th June when he was taken suddenly ill. He was conveyed to Ballochmyle Hospital, where he passed away early next morning. Mr Bradford, who was 51 years of age, resided at 68 Henderson Drive, and was an Instructor at the National Coal Board Training Course at Kames Colliery. He was well known and highly respected in our district, and much sympathy has been expressed for his wife, son, and two daughters in their heavy and sudden loss.

Mr ANTHONY DE SYKES

The oldest man in Muirkirk and a well-known figure in our village, Mr Anthony De Sykes, died at the home of his daughter at Auchinleck on 27th June. Mr De Sykes, who was in his 92nd year, was an officer in the Russian Army as a young man, and came from Lithuania 65 years ago with his bride-to-be, Mary Stelekas. They married on arrival at Liverpool, and after a short stay at Glasgow, came to Muirkirk, where Mr De Sykes worked in the old furnaces, then at the Works and on the railway. A quiet man, he spent a lot of his time in his garden, and for many years at Linkieburn he kept a loft of racing pigeons. Mr De Sykes, whose wife died 14 years ago, is survived by three daughters and four sons.

OBITUARY (Continued)**Mr ALEX. WOODBURN**

The inhabitants of our district were grieved to learn of the sudden death on 29th October of Mr Alex. Woodburn, of Netherwood Farm, at the early age of 47 years.

Mr Woodburn, a keen follower of football, had been attending the Rangers-Kilmarnock League Cup Final at Hampden Park with his brother, and was taken unwell at the match. He passed away near the Galston road-end while being conveyed home. Mr Woodburn had already been to hospital for an examination, but his death in these circumstances came as a great shock to his family and friends, and much sympathy has been expressed for Mrs Woodburn and the family of two boys and a girl in their sudden bereavement.

Mr Woodburn, a native of Hurlford, came to Muirkirk as a boy with his parents. The Netherwood flock of Blackfaced sheep is well known, and regularly commands a good trade at the annual sales.

Of a quiet and unassuming nature, Mr Woodburn was highly respected by all who knew him, and there was a representative attendance at the funeral, which took place to Muirkirk cemetery.

Mr ROBERT YOUNG

Muirkirk's oldest and best-known businessman, Mr Robert Young, ironmonger, passed away at his home, "Janetta," Main Street, on 2nd November.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Mr Young carried on for very many years the successful family business of plumbers and ironmongers, formerly located in a two-storey building (where his home now stands), which was destroyed by fire over thirty years ago, and thereafter in the present shop at the Masonic Hall, and until quite recently he still helped his son, Mr Tom Young, in the conduct of the business.

A genial personality, with a keen sense of humour, Mr Young could recall with relish personalities and incidents in Muirkirk over a long period, and he loved a joke and a crack over old times.

Always a well-known and highly respected figure in our district, he was a keen bowler in his younger days, and was a past President of Muirkirk Bowling Club.

He was predeceased by Mrs Young a number of years ago, and leaves a son and daughter, both married, to whom and their families we extend our sympathy at this time.

FIRE AT GLENBUCK

During the night of Saturday-Sunday last (Sept 8) an outbreak of fire occurred at the fruit and vegetable store of Messrs Bain & Sons, Fruiterers at Glenbuck. The building, known as the Castle, was a well-known one in Glenbuck, and housed several families in its heyday. The fire was discovered by two local boys about 8.30 on Sunday morning, and although Mr George Bain was soon notified and called out the Fire Brigade, by then most of the building had been destroyed, along with the contents, a small quantity of vegetables, as well as crates, etc. A pet cat, a favourite with the villagers, also perished in the blaze. The Police are investigating the cause of the outbreak.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

Rev. H. Vigors was inducted as Minister of the E.U. Congregational Church.

A public meeting decided to wind up the affairs of Muirkirk Junior F.C., but a week later there was a reprieve when a new Committee was formed.

Mr James Gibson took over the business of General Store and Filling Station previously occupied by Mr Thomas Dunlop.

New pillar boxes have been erected at Carruthers Park and Meanlour Drive.

The Blood Transfusion Service reported that 209 donors turned up to donate a pint of blood.

The late Mr John Smith Anderson, farmer, Upper Wellwood, Muirkirk, left £13,879.

Margaret Marshall was the Dux of Muirkirk Furnace Road School.

This year's sports champions were:—Boys—A. Morrison; Girls—D. McLatchie.

A new gent.'s lavatory was opened at smallburn near Furnace Road.

Muirkirk man, Mr Richard Murray, appointed manager of Langside Clay Mine, Galston.

Loyal Orange Lodge Conventicle held at Cameron's Stone.

Miss Elaine Wilson won Dux at Cumnock Academy.

Pair of hen harriers nested on Upper Wellwood Moor—the first time reported in Ayrshire for 100 years.

25 infanst started at Muirkirk J.S. School (Sept.)

SPORTS MEETING AND BOXING DISPLAY

Under the auspices of the Community Association a very ambitious sports meeting and boxing display was held at Ladeside Park in June. There was a very comprehensive programme of athletics, which kept the spectators well entertained. For the first time ever the outdoor boxing display proved a great attraction, which was organised by Larkhall Amateur Boxing Club.

MUIRKIRK LADIES WIN CUP

Muirkirk Lady bowlers had a grand success at the National Coal Board Championship finals at Larkhall in August when they won the rink competition by beating Wishaw in the final by 17 shots to 8. In the semi-final, also played the same day, they disposed of Lumphinnans by 19 shots to 9, so they were in decisive form right enough.

The Muirkirk rink was composed of Mrs J. McIntosh, Mrs R. McIntosh, Mrs W. J. Hadden, and Mrs J. Thomson (skip), and they received a handsome silver cup, which was handed over by Mr Abe Moffat, Scottish Miners' President. Each of the players also received a handsome silver teapot. When the trophy was brought home to Muirkirk, members of Muirkirk Bowling Club met in the Clubhouse and toasted the health of the victors.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1960**BIRTHS**

- VAN DER REE.—To Mr and Mrs Peter Van Der Ree (Laura Rowe), on 20th May; a son.
- DRIFE.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Drife (Mattie Murray) on 9th June; a son.
- GLASHAN.—To Mr and Mrs A. J. Glashan (Headmaster) on 4th July; twin daughters.
- LOCHHEAD.—To Mr and Mrs James Lochhead on 24th July; a daughter.
- NEILL.—To Mr and Mrs Stephen Neill (Josephine Boland) on 19th September; a son
- BROWN.—To Mr and Mrs Wallace Brown on 20th September; a daughter.
- NORMINGTON.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Normington (Isobel Bell) on 24th October; a daughter.
- McBRIDE.—To Mr and Mrs Rodger McBride (Nancy Monaghan) on 27th November; a son.
- WILSON.—To Mr and Mrs John P. Wilson (Ena Findlay) on 12th December; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

- THOMAS RAE to DOREEN BOLAND on 20th February.
- Warrant Officer UDY to MARY MILLER on 27th February.
- JAMES PATERSON to JEAN THOMAS on 5th March.
- TOM KIRKWOOD to JOYCE DRUMMOND on 19th March.
- DAVID KIRKLAND to HELEN HUNTER on 2nd April.
- JOHN HUNTER to YVONNE DICKSON on 30th April.
- JOHN FRISSIE to JOSEPHINE McCALLUM on 18th June.
- ROBERT DAVIDSON to MARGARET SCOTT on 9th July.
- IAN McVEY to BETTY MURDOCH on 11th August.
- JOHN BLAIKIE to CHRISTINE STITT on 15th October.
- ALEX. McIVOR to JOAN MENZIES on 22nd October.
- FRANK MAYHEW to MAY MURPHY on 3rd December.
- NORMAN McKENZIE to MARGARET DONNELLY on 9th Decembr.

DEATHS

- GUTHRIE.—At 22 Victoria Buildings on 28th January, Alexander Guthrie.
- IRVINE.—At Ayr on 24th January, John Irvine, 2 Colthart Drive; aged 82.
- MITCHELL.—At 4 Bridge Street on 19th February, William Mitchell; aged 82 years.
- TAYLOR.—At 28 Hareshaw Crescent on 28th February, John Taylor; aged 64 years.
- JACK.—At 6 Bridge Street on 13th March, Mary Fisher France; aged 82 years.
- KEAN.—At Glenafton Hospital on 16th March, Margaret Williamson, 30 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 77 years.
- McKIE.—At Cambuslang on 3rd April, John McKie.
- CLEMENT.—At 7 Smalburn on 21st April, Elizabeth Clement.
- MATHIESON.—At Manchester on 24th April, William Mathieson; aged 59 years.
- PARK.—At 1 Lapraik Avenue on 21st April, Annie Taylor, aged 66 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

- PATON.—At Ballochmyle on 29th April, Ella Turnbull, 22 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 53 years.
- MUIR.—At Ballochmyle on 8th May, Mary Hutchison, 2 Wardlaw Avenue.
- SHANKLY.—At Glasgow on 18th May, John Shankly, 6 Council Houses, Glenbuck; aged 56 years.
- BLACKWOOD.—In Australia on 31st May, Bella Blackwood, aged 87 years.
- BRADFORD.—At Ballochmyle on 7th June, David Bradford, 68 Henderson Drive; aged 51 years.
- CALDWELL.—In Australia on 19th May, Jimmie Caldwell, formerly of Lightshaw Row; aged 55 years.
- HYSLOP.—At Kilbarchan on 6th June, Mary Vallance; aged 74 years.
- ALLISON.—At 15 Smallburn Drive on 13th June, Robert Allison; aged 55 years.
- BRADFORD.—At 15 Harwood Avenue on 9th June, William Bradford, aged 78 years.
- MENZIES.—At 18 Lapraik Avenue on 18th June, Annie Bain; aged 87 years.
- De SYKES.—At Auchinleck on 27th June, Anthony De Sykes of 36 Harwood Avenue; aged 92 years.
- SCOTLAND.—At 13 Wardlaw Avenue on 8th July, William Scotland, aged 41 years.
- McSKIMMING.—At Ballochmyle on 17th July, Andrew McSkimming, 42 Harwood Avenue; aged 84 years.
- NEIL.—At Ballochmyle on 24th July, David Neil, 39 Springhill Terrace; aged 64 years.
- MARSHALL.—At Hillside Cottage, Glenbuck, on 11th August, Christine Wilson; aged 80 years.
- ROLLETT.—At 47 Stoneyhill Avenue on 11th August, Jessie Williamson; aged 92 years.
- BAIRD.—At 16 Wellwood Street on 2nd September, Gavin Baird, aged 72 years.
- BOLAND.—At 5 Middlefield Drive on 14th September, Wiliam Boland; aged 69 years.
- LESLIE.—At Ballochmyle on 15th September, Elizabeth Fleming, 40 Middlefield Drive; aged 60 years.
- STITT.—At 109 Henderson Drive on 20th September, John Stitt; aged 73 years.
- ELLIOT.—At Lanark on 28th September, Margaret McCulloch; aged 24 years.
- IRVINE.—At Ballochmyle on 5th October, Hugh Irvine, 45 Springhill Terrace; aged 56 years.
- URQUHART.—At Glasgow on 30th September, Mary Urquhart.
- WALLACE.—At Strathclyde on 12th October, Grace McDonald, aged 69 years.
- MURRAY.—At 23 Pagan Walk on 25th October, John Murray, aged 68 years.
- TAIT.—At Edinburgh on 24th October, Andrew Tait (late of Glenbuck); aged 53 years.
- WOODBURN.—On 29th October, Alexander Woodburn, Netherwood Farm; aged 47 years.
- YOUNG.—At “Janetta,” Main Street, on 2nd November., Robert Young (Ironmonger).

DEATHS (Continued)

- BLYTHE.—In U.S.A. on 8th November, Isabella Murray (formerly of Bankhead); aged 82 years.
- BRADFORD.—At 25 Park Terrace on 25th November, Margaret Folley; aged 78 years.
- BROWN.—At Glenafton on 4th December, William Brown, Victoria Buildings.
- PURDIE.—At 29 Middlefield Drive on 6th December, Jessie White; aged 69 years
- McKAY.—At 27 Wardlaw Avenue on 4th December, Ann Kirkwood; aged 57 years.
- GOODLET.—At 66 Hareshaw Crescent on 19th December, John Goodlet; aged 61 years.
- LOCKHART.—At Ballochmyle on 30th December, John Lockhart, 22 Meanlour Drive; aged 72 years.
- SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 29th December, William Samson, 125 Henderson Drive; aged 72 years.
- SIMPSON.—At Dunlossit on 29th December, Matthew Simpson; aged 64 years.

FOOTBALL (Season 1959–60)

This season will go into the records as Muirkirk's worst ever, and by January they were out of all the cup competitions. Never had the local supporters been on such a "downer." The only crumb of comfort that season was that they managed to beat Cumnock 5—3 at Townhead Park, and draw 3—3 at Ladeside Park—both League fixtures.

A Muirkirk team of that time was:—McGregor; Wilson, Gray; Connell, McQueen, Nelson; Dawson, Flood, Wark, Hodgson and Campbell

There have been rave reports about young Jim McMorran, who is scoring regularly in Aston Villa's reserve team

**MUIRKIRK JUNIORS
IN CRISIS**

The situation was so bad that only a handful of spectators turned up for the A.G.M. on 1st May, and as a result no business was transacted, and it was decided to call another general meeting, when the disbandment of the Club would be considered. This meeting duly took place on 8th May, when there was only a small attendance present. Due to the obvious lack of public interest in the affairs of the Club, the small number present had no option but to decide on disbandment, and another meeting for this purpose was arranged for a week later.

The general meeting called for the purpose of disposing of the Club's assets was held in the Drill hall on Sunday, 15th May. The meeting was well attended and ended happily with the Club getting a new lease of life. A new Committee was elected as follows—

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| President | Mr Thomas Lennox |
| Vice-President | Mr Alex. Dempster |
| Secretary | Mr Michael Boland |
| Treasurer | Mr Andrew Higgins |
| Minute Secretary | Mr Robert Tait |
| Groundsman | Mr John Mullen |

Along with a working Committee of twelve members

And so, Muirkirk Juniors lived to play another day, but one thing was sure, it was always going to be a struggle, and it was doubtful if the village really had the resources to sustain a junior football team. Time would tell.

Mr Michael Boland, Secretary, received many letters from well-wishers in the district expressing their delight that the Club is carrying on. One gentleman from Prestwick enclosed a P.O. for 12/6—a nice gesture.

BLACKPOOL TRIP



John Mckenzie, Rab Fulton, Joe Dunsmore, Duncan Cook, Tom Barrie, Alec Fulton, Purav Allen, Jack Clark

OBITUARY**Miss ELIZABETH McDUGALL**

News of the death of Miss Elizabeth McDougall at her home at 28 Wellwood Street, on 6th February, would be received with regret by many pupils and former pupils of Muirkirk J.S. School. She was a teacher at Muirkirk for forty years, and during that long period she gained the highest respect of all with whom she came in contact with—pupils, parents, and teachers alike. She retired in 1957.

Mr ALLAN LOGGIE

Mr Allan Loggie, who died early in the month of February at Skipton, Yorkshire, was another well-known Muirkirk personality who endeared himself to older generations.

Allan started as a telegraph messenger at Muirkirk Post Office as a boy, and thereafter for forty years he served as a postman, during which time he became very well known and highly-respected in our community. After his retiral and the death of his wife, Mr Loggie migrated to England.

He was well known all over Britain as one of the leading breeders and exhibitors of Black Rosecomb bantams, and although he gave up the showing side a few years ago, he still produced many winning specimens for other fanciers, and his services as a judge were in regular demand. In fact, he was booked to officiate at some of the leading forthcoming shows.

THE REV.**JAMES GREENSHIELDS, B.D.**

Mr Greenshields, a well-loved figure in Muirkirk for forty years, passed away at his home in Prestwick on 19th April, in his 99th year. He was Minister of Muirkirk United Free Church from 1890 till his retiral in 1929, and this was his first and only charge. During his ministry in Muirkirk Mr Greenshields proved himself a model pastor, leader, and shepherd of his flock, and he was a scholar and student as well. He endeared himself to all who knew him, and although he retired to Prestwick he was always in touch with Muirkirk friends.

The son of a colliery clerk at Braehead, Lanarkshire, Mr Greenshields was a partially self-taught man, who took his M.A. Degree at Glasgow University in 1888 and then went to Trinity College, where he gained a B.D. two years later. He came to Muirkirk two years afterwards.

He had a life-long friendship with J. M. Barrie, whom he met while preaching at Motherwell during his student days.

The funeral took place to Muirkirk Cemetery, when there was a large and widely-representative attendance.

Mrs CATHERINE MITCHELL

It was with deep regret that the news was received in August of the sudden death of Mrs Catherine Mitchell of Glasgow. Mrs Mitchell resumed teaching in 1944 after the death of her husband and joined the staff of Muirkirk J.S. School, where she remained till her retirement in June, 1951. Since then she has visited our village regularly, her last visit being made last month. Her former pupils will recall her as a kindly and devoted teacher, and her friends in the village mourn the passing of this great personality.

Mr ANDREW FERGUSSON

A link with our district in days gone by was severed by the passing on 31st October at Hitchen, Herts., of Mr Andrew Fergusson, who had been residing with his daughter and son-in-law at Ickleford.

Mr Fergusson, who was 84 years of age, was a native of Carsphairn, and started as a signalman on the railway at Glenbuck early in the century. He became stationmaster at Glenbuck back in 1921, and after ten years in that capacity he was transferred to Carnwath Station, finally ending his railway career at High Blantyre.

He spent some time in retirement at Cambuslang before the family moved to England.

The funeral took place to Muirkirk cemetery.

Mr Fergusson was predeceased by his wife 29 years ago. She was Margaret Young Johnstone, a member of the well-known family who farmed at Airdgreen.

Mr WILLIAM WILSON.

News of the death of Mr William Wilson, 83 Hawkshaw Terrace, last week (February) would be received with regret by many Muirkirk folks at home and elsewhere. Of a quiet and unassuming disposition, Mr Wilson had a long connection with Muirkirk Bowling Club, of which he was a past President, and his pleasant manner and pawky humour will be missed. Readers will join with us in expressing our sympathy with Mrs Wilson and Tom in their bereavement.

FATAL ACCIDENT

A distressing accident occurred on 27th December when Mr Andrew Logie, a young married man employed as a plumber by Messrs R. Young & Son, received fatal injuries while turning off a water valve in Main Street opposite the New Regal Cinema. He was knocked down by a passing lorry and sustained head injuries from which he died shortly afterwards. Andrew, who resided at Albert Cottages, Main Street, was a pleasant young man, who was well liked in the village, and much sympathy is being expressed with his young wife and infant son in their tragic loss.

CONSTABULARY PROMOTION

It is pleasing to note that Police Sergeant Richard Scott, at present in charge of Mauchline police station, has been promoted to the rank of Chief Inspector, and will take up his new post at Girvan in August. Inspector Scott, who is 45 years of age, joined the Ayrshire Constabulary in 1935, and had served at Prestwick, Ardeer, Irvine, Ayr, and Dreghorn before being promoted Sergeant and posted to Muirkirk in March, 1952. He left Muirkirk for Catrine in June, 1958, and went to Mauchline in 1959. During their sojourn with us Mr Scott and Mrs Scott made many friends, who will readily join with us in congratulating them on this promotion.

BOWLING

The final of the Miss Jean Findlay Bowling Trophy competition was played at Muirkirk green when Galston, winners of the Ayrshire Northern Zone, played Muirkirk "C" Rink, winners of the Southern Zone. It was a close tie, but Muirkirk won by one shot, 13-12. The rink was:—Tom Hogg, Bill Symington, Bob McIntosh, and Norman Harrison (skip).

FIVE BROTHERS IN MUIRKIRK B.B.

It is quite possible that the Brown family of Muirkirk and the 1st Muirkirk Boys' Brigade Co. will set up a record in B.B. circles, because five brothers are all members of the Co. at the one time. The five lads, all sons of Mr and Mrs Charles Brown, 33 Meanlour Drive, are Sergeant Eric Brown, Cpl. Robert Brown, Privates David and John Brown (twins), and Private Billy Brown, who joined up this term. Eric has five years' membership and is the proud possessor of a Queen's Badge, and we feel sure his brothers will want to emulate his achievement. We wish them well, and congratulate the family on a fine record, which is a sole tribute to captain John Turner and his officers of the Muirkirk Company.

MEDICAL PRACTICE CHANGE

Dr John C. Weir is to take over the panel of patients of Dr Thomas D. Duke, who is to resign on May 8. Dr Duke has, of course, been in partnership with Dr Weir for a number of years.

Dr Weir has written to the Ayrshire Executive of the National Health Service requesting that he be allowed to continue the whole partnership practice on the understanding that he would employ an assistant with a view to partnership within six months.

After considering the size of the combined lists and the representations of Dr Weir, the Medical Vacancies Committee decided to recommend that the resignation of Dr Duke would not create a vacancy which would require to be filled by advertisement.

They also agreed to the appointment of Dr Weir as locum for Dr Duke's patients, which would be for a period of not more than six months, and within which period Dr Weir would have a partner, and that the persons on the list of Dr Duke should be transferred equally between Dr Weir and the doctor who will become partner of Dr Weir. This is subject to the right of patients to choose another doctor if they wish.

PRESENTATION TO DR DUKE

Dr Duke, whose medical service along with that of Dr Weir has earned the gratitude of our community over the past seven years, leaves to take up practice at Harrow, Middlesex, in May, and his way-going was recognised when a deputation visited him at his home. The deputation was headed by Mrs M. Love, J.P., County Council, who represented the Committee which set up the testimonial fund, when a total of £167 was collected from the villagers.

Mrs Love, in handing over a gold watch, suitably inscribed, a radiogram, and a cheque, referred to Dr Duke's valuable service at Muirkirk in many ways apart from the call of duty, and the esteem in which he was held by all was evidenced by the magnificent response to the testimonial.

MASONIC PRESENTATION

At a regular monthly meeting of Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Muir Wilson, presented Bro. James Beresford with the Honorary Grand Rank Diploma of Honorary Grand Bible Bearer of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in recognition of his 28 years of service to the Lodge in his capacity as Lodge Secretary.

MUIRKIRK JUNIOR F.C.

TESTIMONIAL TO WILLIE CONNELL

A large and very sociable company assembled in the Community Centre on Saturday to honour Mr Willie Connell, the Club's longest-serving player, and one who had gained the highest regard of players, officials and supporters alike, for his whole-hearted play and sportsmanship.

Mr Thomas Lennox, President of the Club, referred to Willie's faithful service to the Club over the past 12 years, during which he had met many people and made a very large number of friends, some of whom were present that night.

Mr Michael Boland, Secretary, said that Willie Connell had come to Muirkirk Juniors on a free transfer from Darvel Juniors, and he proved a loyal servant indeed. Later, in spite of various offers from other clubs which Muirkirk could not have matched, Willie had decided to stick with Muirkirk, and even the average Muirkirk supporter didn't realise how much he had meant to the Club. Mr Boland recalled various incidents over the years at signing-on time which showed just how much Willie's heart was with Muirkirk, and said that in all those years he had never been cautioned, reprimanded or booked on the field of play. Willie Connell would inevitably leave Muirkirk, but his problem when he visited it would be what friends he was going to stay the night with.

On behalf of the Club Mr Lennox handed over a cheque to mark the occasion. On behalf of the players, Bobby Gray handed over a handsome mirror, and from Willie's old partner in the team, Eric Caldwell, Scotland and Rangers left back and captain, came a cheque, and the Scottish team jersey he had worn at Wembley recently.

When Willie rose to reply he was obviously quite overcome, but said he could not find words to express his thanks for the great kindness shown to him, and in thanking all connected with Muirkirk Juniors and other subscribers, he assured them he had always been very happy at Muirkirk, and wished the Club every future success.

HEADMASTER LEAVING

Mr J. A. Glashan, B.Sc., Headmaster of Muirkirk Junior Secondary School, has been appointed Rector of Turriff Academy, a Senior Secondary School in Aberdeenshire. There were over 80 applicants for the post. During his five years at Muirkirk, Mr Glashan has been a popular figure in our district, and apart from his scholastic duties he has taken a prominent part in the life of the Parish Church, being Chairman of the Congregational Board and Editor of the Church monthly magazine. He will commence his new duties in October.

MUIRKIRK WILL

In a list of Ayrshire estates just published appears that of Miss Elizabeth McDougall, 28 Wellwood Avenue, Muirkirk, who left £6,363.

HOLIDAY FUND

The local miners holiday fund was disbursed prior to the annual holidays. The payout was approximately £9,000, and this along with previous withdrawals, makes up a total of roughly £14,000 for the year.

AN IMMIGRANT'S LAMENT

I've wandered faur frae Scotland's shore,
O'er seas I chose to roam,
But oh! can I prevent ma thochts
From ever turning home.

I oft times think o' days gone by
Of spots I hold so dear,
Of childhood frien's and family,
My memory keeps them near.

Of picnics that, wi' neebor bairns,
We gaed—Out tae the Ha',
Tae Tibbie's Brig, cauld watter Spoot,
Brig Twenty-ane and a'.

I've paiddled in the Watter Ayr,
The Greenock Watter tae,
And cycled tae the auld White Brig
Tae dook, aye mony a day.

In courtin' days there's mony a walk
Aroon Muirkirk I've taen—
The Miller's Road, the Pooderhouse,
And doon by Tam Rae's lane;

The walk aroond by Auldhooseburn,
A favourite was o' mine;
On Sundays, doon the Cumnock Road,
My lad's hand holding mine.

We didnae have the radio,
Ne'er dreamed about TV,
But mony a happy nicht I've spent,
Wi' frien's and family.

Oft gathered roon oor ain fireside;
A gay sang frae ma' mither,
Sweet sangs frae me and Aunt Mary,
A ballad by ma brither.

A laugh, a joke, a goodly tale—
The 'oors jist flew alang,
We'd finish up by coaxing Dad
Tae sing a bawdy sang.

Aye, times hae changed since I was young,
And pleasures too, I fear,
The simple joys have been replaced
By things that cost you dear.

The lovely walks, the dookin' spots,
Forgotten, fall apart;
The state, I hear, o' Tibbie's Brig,
Puts woe into my heart.

Now, as a bairn, I often heard,
A lively tale was told
How Tibbie flummoxed Rabbie Burns,
Who dared to call her bold.

As Tibbie was our best-known link
Wi' Scotias famous Bard,
Tae keep her brig a monument,
That shouldna be sae hard.

A puckle stanes, some guid cement,
A lot o' elbow grease,
The willing hert, the helping haun',
And labours never cease

Until the brig has been renewed
To a' its former beauty,
Then each can shake the ither's hand
And say "I've done my duty."

Then roll your sleeves up, bonnie lads,
Nae mither's son maun shirk,
And when its done, frae ower the sea
You'll hear, "Weel done, Muirkirk!"

And if its siller that ye need,
I'll start, wi' richt guid will,
A fund tae save auld Tibbie's Brig,
Wi' one five-dollar bill.

Mrs BLACKWOOD

Canmore, Alberta,
Canada.

(Elizabeth Bain)

OLD TIMERS

During the past few weeks announcements in our Death Notices column would recall for older readers happy memories of Muirkirk earlier in the century.

Mr Thomas Woodburn, aged 80, who was the last survivor of the family of the late Thomas and Agnes Woodburn, of Midhouse Row, died at Manchester, and his passing brings to mind the Southside in its heyday—a busy, lively place.

Mr Andrew Millar, aged 81, of Glasgow, whose death was announced in September, left Springhill Terrace many years ago. He was the youngest son of the late Mr Andrew Millar, who was School Board Officer at Muirkirk and Precentor in the old United Free Church under the Rev. James Greenshield. Younger readers may be interested to learn that in those far-off days there were no organs in the churches and the precentor, or conductor of the choir, sounded the key note on a tuning fork or blew the required note on a small metal reed tuner which could be adjusted for several keys.

Then the passing of Miss Agnes Howatson Cameron, of Burntshields Farm, Sorn, eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Cameron, also brought recollections of bygone days. For many years Agnes visited Muirkirk regularly with her horse-drawn float, selling butter, 'soor' milk and eggs, and in all kinds of weather she made her way from Sorn to make her rounds. A hardy soul indeed.

CO-OPERATIVE DIVIDEND

1/8 per £

RECOLLECTIONS OF MUIRKIRK IRONWORKS

Many visitors to Muirkirk, travelling up from Smallburn and past the Furnace Road, glance to the South and at once have their curiosity aroused. Is that an old castle?" they frequently ask. The "castle" is, of course, the ruins of the old ironworks, which closed down close on forty years ago.

How time flies! Many of us can remember this imposing installation, the belching from which at night lit up the countryside and enabled us to play away happily with our marbles on the pavements of the otherwise poorly lighted streets.

The older fry will sigh nostalgically when they conjure up the old familiar picture of this hive of industry.

A hive of industry it was indeed, with, at one time, more than 200 men working round the clock in—in the early days—twelve hour shifts.

The history of Muirkirk Ironworks has been referred to in these columns before, but historical facts and figures are "cauld kail," and a word or two with several old-timers, plus a somewhat hazy personal recollection, has prompted me to pen a more intimate picture for the benefit of your younger folk, and perhaps in doing so we will stir up happy memories for our older readers and, who knows, even encourage some to contribute more information on these busy, far-off days.

On entering through the gate in the wall which still stands beyond the River Ayr Bridge, the visitor would feel dwarfed by the huge blast furnaces and their tall chimney stacks. There were three blast furnaces—circular structures which rose to the top of the retaining wall, from which, over bridges the workers emptied the contents of the wagons brought from the railway sidings nearby.

With the aid of large iron barrows, tons of iron ore, coal and char were toppled into the greedy furnaces, and there might be anything up to forty charges in the twenty-four hours.

The pig-iron was run off every twelve hours into beds of sand made into moulds the shape of the "pigs." The unwanted slag was run into bogies and drawn by horses to be tipped on the slag bings which are familiar to everyone in our district.

There were also two puddling furnaces. In the puddling furnaces the pig iron (apart from the major part of the output sent off elsewhere) was rolled and hammered (by steam hammer) into the required sizes. Then in the beating furnaces it was welded together and rolled off into squares, angles, rails, etc.

From the furnaces huge pipes were led along to the Chemical Works, and by means of a blast compressor installed into what looks to us now like an old tower, the gas from the furnaces was pumped for purification. From this was derived sulphate of ammonia for agricultural purposes; the tar was boiled to extract creosote which was sent to oil refineries, and the residue of pitch also had its useful purpose.

There might be 12 men employed in the Chemical Works, 100 at the puddling furnaces and 100 at the blast furnaces.

The rolling mill and forge was closed down in 1913.

When the molten slag was run into the bogies it quickly became solidified. Then the sides of the bogies were dropped and away went the horse with its convoy of almost white-hot slag blocks now resting on the small-wheeled platforms. Near the "tip" the horseman would uncouple the horse, which stepped smartly to the side, and the bogies would career on to the tip to send the large blocks of slag hurtling down the sides of the slag hill.

No doubt these were hard and sometimes tragic days, but as always where men sweat and toil together there were the little "incidents" and humour which seldom fail to blossom in the most unexpected places.

On one occasion when a load of hot slag was bowling merrily to the tip the horse forgot to side-step and was pushed by its load down the face of the slag hill It was found at the bottom unhurt, munching contentedly at the grass!

Naturally, there was a terrific heat about the Furnaces, and heat engenders thirst. It is said that beer was carried over to the Works by the pailful, but this would not seem to be the case, apart from an instance which follows later. Water, however, was drunk by the "stoup"-ful, and this was obtained from the Holm Spoot by the side of the River Ayr. When the river was in flood the spoot was inundated, and then it was a case of carrying the supplies from the pumps in the village or getting it at Charlie's Spoot, which was situated near where the present Railway Station stands. We are speaking of the early days, of course, and the railway station in these days was a little further down the line (where the Station House now stands).

In these days boys starting in the industry had to stand much good-natured "chaff," and invariable tricks were played on them. It was the boys' job to carry the stoups of water from the Spoot, and they were warned constantly at night time to watch out for the "banshees" (ghosts). The "Banshee" (a workman swathed in towels) was often there to give the poor boys a terrible fright, but the practice was also very sore on the stoups, which often sailed away down the river Ayr when dropped as a result of these scares, and, in fact, we are told that the last stoup at the Works met this fate.

We understand the "pails of beer" incident happened when one worthy set off with not one, but two stoups for "the Toon," walked into the open beer cellar of a public house, calmly filled his stoups, and took the unexpected refreshment back to his companions. No one seemed to be any the wiser—certainly not the publican!

Refreshments of the strong variety could always be had at the Ironworks Store nearby, and a feature of the times was that the men were allowed a "sub" on their pays, and could get "something" at the Store without having to wait till payday. This would appear to have been the forerunner of the H.P. or Never-Never (out of debt) System.

At anyrate, we find pleasure in writing of these by-gone days, and it is also worthy of note that much of the slag from our old works is being used for road bottoming in the county.

THE MUIRKIRK TOUCH

We are always pleased to hear about Muirkirk folks doing well in other airts, and so it was very interesting to see in an issue of the Edinburgh "Evening Dispatch" in September that Mr Thomas Hazle, 84 Newton Village, Millarhill, by Dalkeith, elder son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Hazle, 23 Middlefield Drive, had won the individual bowling championship of Danderhall and Newton Social Club.

Many of our readers will also remember Tom as a stalwart centre-half of the very successful Muirkirk school football team of the early thirties.

In the group photograph which depicted the cup winners and officials we were also pleased to see a Muirkirk lady, Mrs T. Casagrande, who is treasurer of the Club.

COLLIERY CLOSURES

It was announced that sixteen Collieries in Ayrshire, Clackmannanshire, Lanarkshire, and Lothians are to be closed.

In our own area pits affected are Lochlea, Mauchline (opened in 1949), Coalburn, New Cumnock (1942), Polquairn, Ochiltree (1895), and Roger, Kirkconnel (1952).

WAR-TIME ECHO

The local Police recovered a large quantity of live machine-gun ammunition from a hillside at Whitehaugh Farm, the scene of a war-time plane crash.

SOME FOOTBALL QUESTIONS ANSWERED

(1) Ladeside Park was opened on 28th August, 1909, when Muirkirk's two teams, the Athletic and the United, met in a Cumnock and District League game. The Athletic won 6-1.

(2) Muirkirk Junior F.C. made its debut in the Western League on 3rd August, 1938, against Auchinleck Talbot. Manager Jimmy McGrory of Kilmarnock F.C. kicked off before a crowd of 2,000. Talbot won 2-1, and the Muirkirk team was:—Telfer; Anderson, Lees; Johnstone, McCall, Nimmo; Dick, Fullarton, Boland, Scott, and Murray.

NEW HEADMASTER

Mr William M. Crichton (39), who has been appointed headmaster of Muirkirk Junior Secondary School, has been principal teacher of English at Galston High School for the past two years.

Trained in Glasgow, he became a teacher of English at Galston High School in 1948, before moving to Marr College, Troon, the same year. He remained there until 1953 when he moved to Newton Academy, Ayr, as principal teacher of English and History. Mr Crichton returned to Galston High School in 1959.

He has been superintendent of Hurlford Further Education classes since 1956. During the war Mr Crichton, who is married, was a lieutenant in the R.N.V.R.

THE BLAST FURNACES AT MUIRKIRK IRONWORKS



FOOTBALL (Season 1960—61)

Having ended the previous season on a low, with the Club almost down and out, Muirkirk Juniors had high expectations for the season that lay ahead, but it was not to be.

One League point from the first five games is not what champions are made of, but in the West of Scotland Cup they beat Burnbank Athletic 3—1. The team was:— Delaney; Parker, Gray; Connell, Martin, Jolly; Harkins, McShane, Docherty, Ross, Ritchie.

In the Scottish Cup they drew twice with Kello Rovers, 2—2 and 1—1, and in the second replay they beat Rovers 3—0. Then in the West of Scotland Cup they were trounced 5—0 by Greenock. The team was:—Delaney; Parker, Gray; Connell, baird, Jolly; Bryson, Docherty, Gilmour, Ross, Ritchie

In the second round of the Scottish Muirkirk travelled to Greenock and were trounced 5—0.

Their last hopes of landing silverware vanished in the semi-final of the Irvine and District Cup, going down to Beith 4—0. Team:—Delaney; Docherty, Gray; Walters, baird, Thomson; Spence, Travers, McLean, Ross, Ritchie.

WESTERN LEAGUE**South Section**

Glenafton Ath.	24	20	2	2	101	27	42
Darvel	24	17	4	3	103	50	37
Annbank	24	14	7	3	71	46	31
Muirkirk Jun.	24	12	9	3	55	49	27
Auchinleck T.	24	9	10	5	36	47	23
Lugar B.T.	24	9	11	4	59	60	22
Hurlford	24	9	11	4	44	57	22
Nithsdale W.	24	10	3	1	49	72	21
Craigmark B.	24	8	10	4	49	55	20
Cumnock Jun.	24	8	12	4	52	64	20
Maybole Jun.	24	8	13	3	66	84	19
Kello Rovers	24	6	14	4	48	76	16
Whitlets Vic.	24	4	16	4	32	73	12

An indication of the apathy shown towards the Club was that only nine members of the public turned out at the Juniors' a.g.m.

Mr George Bain, Muirkirk, was elected Vice-President of the Ayrshire Junior Football Association.

Minor teams in the village fared much better. Ochiltree Parish Church team won the Scottish Churches Cup by the tall score of 6—0. The team, which consists mainly of Muirkirk lads was as follows:—Murray; England, Murdoch; Jim Bell, Frew, Len Bell; Gibney, Campbell, Muir, Brown, Bradford.

Kames Colliery beat Whitehill Welfare in the final of the C.I.S.W.O. Summer Cup at Townhead Park. Team:—Murray; England, Bradford; Bell, Frew, Murdoch; Cook, Campbell, Muir, Ross, Wallace.

Muirkirk J. S. School won the League Cup. Team:—A. Dempster; Jim Wallace, Jim Graham; Fraser Burns, Archie Neil, James Samson; Jim Davidson, John Dempster, Tom Davidson, Jim Findlay, Gary Walker.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1961**BIRTHS**

- CROSBIE.—At Gateshead on 22nd March to Jim and Sylvia; a son.
- CRONIN.—At Irvine on 30th July, to Mr and Mrs M. Cronin; a daughter.
- LOGIE.—At Buchreddan on 27th July to Mr and Mrs A. Logie (Jessie Smith); a son.
- ADAMS.—At Dumbarton on 4th August to Mr and Mrs H. Adams (Margaret Goldstone); a daughter.
- FREW.—On 20th August to Mr and Mrs James Frew (Marion Cruickshank); a daughter.
- BOURNE.—On 1st September to Mr and Mrs Donald Bourne (Nan Stacey); a daughter.
- MILLAR.—At Buchreddan on 16th September to Mr and Mrs Hugh Millar; a daughter.
- SAMSON.—On 5th December to Mr and Mrs David Samson (Jean Guthrie); a daughter.
- BEGG.—At Irvine on 29th December to Mr and Mrs H. B. Fleming (Eleanor Lochhead); a son.

MARRIAGES

- JAMES BEGG to MARY BOAG on 14th January.
- ANDREW WALKER to CHRISTINA MURDOCH on 4th March.
- OWEN McGARRY to MARGARET STRICKLAND on 18th March.
- JOHN CRAIG to FAY BRADFORD on 18th March.
- WILLIAM HOGG to MARTHA FREW on 31st March.
- DAVID SHEARER to AGNES IRVINE on 5th April.
- THOS. HOWATT to BARBARA ANDERSON on 2nd August.
- GEORGE PARK to JUNE McCRINDLE on 5th August.
- JAMES MILLAR to JANET LESLIE on 21st October.
- WILLIAM McCULLOCH to VIOLET WILSON on 22nd December.

DEATHS

- FERGUSON.—At Glenafton on 15th January, William Fergusson, 27 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 86 years.
- FORRESTER.—At 17 Smallburn Drive on 23rd January, Jeanie Armstrong; aged 54 years.
- GIBSON.—At Lanark on 14th January, Alex. Gibson.
- McDOUGALL.—At 28 Wellwood Avenue on 6th February, Elizabeth McDougall (Teacher).
- STRICKLAND.—At 30 Hawkshaw Terrace on 6th February, William Strickland; aged 69 years.
- JOHNSTONE.—At Hairmyres on 7th February, Marion Dempster.
- WALLACE.—On 7th February, Alex. Wallace, late of Douglas Water; aged 71 years.

- BARCLAY.—At 49 Pagan Walk on 20th February, Isabella Williamson; aged 75 years.
- COOK.—At 6 Middlefield Drive on 20th February, Mary Collow; aged 77 years.
- WILSON.—At 33 Hawkshaw Terrace on 16th February, William Wilson; aged 65 years.
- BAIRD.—At Ballochmyle on 6th March, Wm. Baird; aged 48
- DALZIEL.—At 2 Stitt Place on 2nd March, Archibald Dalziel; aged 52 years.
- HENDERSON.—At Northumberland on 27th February, Josephine Speedman (formerly of Clydesdale Bank); aged 86.
- TAIT.—At 54 Hareshaw Crescent on 10th March, Isabella Barr, aged 84 years.
- KEAN.—At 29 Hawkshaw Terrace on 17th March, Jean Inglis; aged 79 years.
- LOCHRIE.—At Ayr on 19th March, Agnes Clement, of 9 Smallburn Drive; aged 69 years.
- PARKER.—At Ballochmyle on 29th March, William Parker, Station House.
- GOLD.—At Ballochmyle on 7th April, Margaret Wood, 50 Pagan Walk; aged 65 years.
- PRINGLE.—At 55 Glasgow Road on 10th April, Christina Fairbairn.
- RATTRAY.—At 26 Shawknowe Avenue on 9th April, Elizabeth Peacock.
- GOODLET.—At Ayr on 16th April, Agnes Vallance, 51 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 51 years.
- GREENSHIELDS.—At Prestwick on 19th April, Rev. James Greenshields; aged 99 years.
- CAMERON.—At 78 Pagan Walk on 28th April, Mary McIntosh, aged 68 years.
- MURDOCH.—At 48 Henderson Drive on 1st May, Mary Steven, aged 88 years.
- TAYLOR.—At Cleland on 30th April, Sarah Rae.
- ANDERSON.—At Girvan on 6th May, Annie Neilson, late of Kirkgreen Co-operative Buildings; aged 77 years.
- CRAN.—At Ballochmyle on 9th May, Jean Cran, 23 Stoneyhill
- CASAGRANDA.—On 2nd June, Joseph Casagranda, 137 Henderson Drive; aged 54 years.
- MACKIN.—At Ballochmyle on 6th June, Annie Devanney, 52 Henserson Drive; aged 75 years.
- PATERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 19th June, John Paterson, late of 12 Middlefield Drive, aged 78 years.
- WILSON.—At Larkhall on 24th June, Robina Allison, late of Glenbuck.
- PRINGLE.—At 12 Furnace Rd. on 30th June, Christina Scott.
- SMITH.—At Ballochmyle on 9th July, Robert Smith, Council Buildings, Glenbuck; Aged 76 years.
- TOWLE.—At Irvine on 5th July, Agnes Hazle, Ironworks Cottages, aged 81 years.
- BALLANTYNE.—At Glenafton on 21st July, George Ballantyne, aged 37 years.
- FINDLAY.—At 22 Garronhill on 21st July, James Findlay; aged 37 years.
- FOSTER.—At Ayr on 22nd July, Isabel Findlay, 32 Middlefield Drive; aged 77 years.
- McCULLOCH.—At Irvine on 17th July, John McCulloch, 49 Garronhill; aged 72 years.
- LIVINGSTONE.—At Ballochmyle on 4th August, David Livingstone, 62 Pagan Walk; aged 79 years.
- BONE.—At Porthill on 5th August, Jessie Bone; aged 60.
- TAYLOR.—At Annbank on 30th August, Marion Bone.
- LOWE.—At 24 Hawkshaw Terrace on 9th September, Annie O'Brien; aged 59 years.
- SHANKLY.—At Ballochmyle on 15th September, Alex. Shankly, 110 Wellwood Street; aged 64 years.
- WOODBURN.—At Manchester on 12th September, Thomas Woodburn, late of 7 Midhouse Row; aged 80 years.
- CAMERON.—At Sorn on 26th September, Agnes Howatson.
- KELLY.—At Ballochmyle on 25th September, George Gray Kelly, 90 Pagan Walk; aged 65 years.
- MILLAR.—At Stobhill on 20th September, Andrew Millar, aged 81 years.
- McKERROW.—In Australia on 23rd September, Thomas McKerrow, late of West Glenbuck.
- WYLIE.—At 58 Colthart Drive on 2nd October, Robert Wylie; aged 60 years.
- GOODLET.—At 35 Pagan Walk on 16th October, Alex. Goodlet; aged 51 years.
- WALLACE.—At Ayr on 20th October, John Wallace, late of Glenbuck; aged 45 years.
- FERGUSON.—At Hitchen on 31st October, Andrew Ferguson, aged 84 years.
- GIRVAN.—At 5 Shawknowe Avenue on 31st October, Marion Reid; aged 82 years.
- MONTGOMERY.—At 3 Lapraik Avenue on 1st November, Robert Montgomery; aged 63 years.
- BEGG.—At 7 Harewood Avenue on 14th November, Sarah Cunningham; aged 88 years.
- THOMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 8th November, Helen Smellie, 19 Burns Avenue; aged 77 years.
- GRAY.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd November, Mary Vallance, 20 Carruthers Park; aged 62.
- McDONALD.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd November, Frank McDonald; aged 75 years.
- MACKIN.—At Ballochmyle on 13th December, Joseph Mackin; aged 80 years.
- HENDRY.—At Balochmyle on 19th December, Janet Walker, 7 Burns Avenue; aged 64 years.
- LOGIE.—As the result of an accident on 27th December, Andrew Logie, Albert Cottages; aged 27 years.
- MACKIN.—At Ballochmyle on 28th December, Sarah McDade, 14 Stitt Place; aged 62 years.

CHAPTER FIFTY-FIVE

(1962)

FISHING DAYS

“The trout within yon wimpling burn
 Glides swift, a silver dart,
 And safe beneath the shady thorn
 Defies the angler’s art.” —Burns

“Happy days are here again.” These are the words of an old popular song, and how true they are in some respects at least.

This time of the year brings the start of a sport that means happy days for those who love the old piscatorial art, or in other words, “the fishing.”

It is on this sport, plus the quietness and its surroundings so near to Nature itself that I have enjoyed for a long number of years, that I would like to write about to-day.

Especially would I like to write about my boyhood days and the few teenage years I spent in Muirkirk, fishing in the waters and burns there.

In the papers one reads of the preparations for the new season, the liberation of young fish in the waters and the angling clubs planning their annual competitions. Muirkirk Club is among them, and seems to be in the happy position of having an enthusiastic membership, with some very skilled fishers among them. They do have some marvellous catches of fish on competition days.

I myself was a member of this Club some 55 years ago. There were competitions then too, but we did not have the

travelling facilities that there are nowadays, when one is able to get ever so much farther afield.

My father was an expert angler, and got many a fine catch of trout.

Many pleasant hours as a boy and teenager I spent fishing on the Water Ayr and the burns running into it. Good catches were got then on Ashieburn and Darnhunch Burn. This was not much larger than a good hill drain, with the heather meeting over it in some places. Still, there were quite a number of trout in it. They were coloured almost black, like the peat the water flowed through. Duneaton Water at the back of Cairntable was always good for a catch fish, if you got sufficient water in it.

A visit to the Greenock Water was a special afternoon for me when my father came home from work on a Saturday. Sometimes he would send me away in front of him while he would get ready and catch up on me on the road. When we got older we were allowed to go by ourselves, and these were great days for my brother and me.

Two memories of going further afield to fish are still fresh in my mind, one a visit to the Glenmuir Water and the other to the “Deil’s Back Door,” the fall so named on the Glenmuir.

I was 12½ years old—and working—and my workmate, a lad a little older than myself, decided to go to the Glenmuir for a day’s fishing. When the appointed day came and my mother wakened me at 4 a.m. on a particularly stormy morning she did not want me to go, fearing I would be blown into the Canal while making along the Pug Line. I reached my companion’s home at Kames Row safely, and at 5 a.m. we set out on the long walk to Glenmuir Water.

BANKHEAD



The Glenmuir Water, incidentally, eventually becomes the Lugar Water.

Needless to say we were wet to the skin before we got far, but that did not daunt us, for weren't we not two brave fishermen? Eventually we arrived at the Water, and what a water. It was raging down in full spate and as brown as a berry—hopeless for fishing. To crown all, the sun shone in all its brilliance for the rest of the day. Bad as the conditions were we "had a go," but it was no good, and after fishing right to the "Deil's Back Door," our catch was one trout of about one pound in weight. My companion caught it. Our clothes had dried out on us, so we sat down and enjoyed our "piece"—bread and cheese washed down with cold tea. It was very pleasant then sitting on the moorland, enjoying the sunshine and the quiet of the hills, with the occasional fly-past of some moorland birds, and the river flowing serenely on. We began to think on

"The lang Scots miles,
The mosses, waters, slaps and stiles
That lay between us and our hame."

We decided to call it a day, and tying up our tackle and our rods, began the long walk home. We were none the worse of the soaking we got that morning, and felt ever so much richer in experience.

I have no doubt many Muirkirk boys will have walked that same Sanquhar Moor path, and perhaps they were more fortunate as regards to fishing, but the memory cannot mean more to them than it is to me at this time.

The other day I recall was on the Whitehaugh Water, a tributary of the Greenock Water.

This time my companion was a Mr Thomas Anderson—"Auld Tam" the boys at the pit called him. He had learned of my unsuccessful visit to the Glenmuir and said he would take me with him some day to where I would catch plenty of fish. Well, that day dawned also; it was a good day for fishing this time, and as true as "Auld Tam" said, I got a basket full of trout.

Anyone who has been to the Whitehaugh Water will know it is a long walk there and back again. Over much moorland, it is almost a circular route to it and back. We were away more than a round of the clock. I think now when I recall that day that Tam could not have been so old as we thought he was, for he was much the fresher of the two when we got back home that night. I can remember I was a very tired boy, but a very happy one amongst my mates when I was describing to them the events of the day.

Many a time those days and exploits come to my mind with lots of happy memories of the burns around Muirkirk. I have never caught many large fish—the Canal at Bankhead gave me my biggest one and to my age (11 years) at 2½ lbs. it was a beauty.

Since leaving the district I have fished many rivers and their tributaries, including the Clyde, the Tweed, the Nith and the River Doon. I have had fishing holidays in the Scottish Highlands, but I still think that my happiest hours were on the

Muirkirk waters.

With apologies to Burns—

The fisher loves the gloaming light,
Alang the burn tae wander;
Forgetting all his worldly ills,
Enjoying all the fisher's thrills

"A BANKHEAD EASTON."

LOW GAS LEVEL

The cold spell and the run on gas supplies gave cause for concern on Hogmanay, when Mr Johnstone, Manager, contacted the Police. The gasometer was flat with no supply of gas apart from what was actually being made at the time. There was the obvious danger of cookers, etc., going out, and with the aid of a public address system from Headquarters, the Police warned residents to turn off their appliances. This action and a good deal of hard work on the part of the stokers brought conditions to near normal again. And, of course, there was the inevitable touch of humour. When the Police warned folks to turn off appliances, one resident was heard to remark that he had no appliances, "Jist a cooker and a fire!"

IN THE RUNNING

Local football fans would note with interest that Muirkirk lad, Jim McMorran, Aston Villa, was in the running for a place in Scotland's under-23 team which beat England at Pittodrie Park, Aberdeen, on 28th February, having been chosen as a reserve,

Jim, of course, represented Scotland on several occasions as a schoolboy, and we are hoping that one day he will emulate this achievement in the senior football sphere. Meantime he is playing a prominent part in the Villa's English Cup bid this season.

FATAL ACCIDENT

The village was grieved on Thursday (8th March) to learn of the death of Mr Hector McNair (39), shotfirer, 30 Lapraik Avenue, in an accident underground at Kames Colliery. Mr McNair was caught by a fall from the roof, and another worker, Mr Alex. Grant (62), 54 Smallburn sustained cuts, bruises and shock. He was conveyed to Ayr County Hospital for treatment. A very large concourse of mourners attended the funeral of Mr McNair, and widespread sympathy has been expressed for his wife, teenage son, and young daughter in their sudden and heavy loss

TRANSFER

The "Burroo" Office at Main Street was transferred to the District Council Office at Wellwood Street in May, and now occupies the former Parish Council Chamber. It has brought a little extra stir to Wellwood Street.

NEW STATIONMASTER

Mr W. McCubbin is the new Stationmaster at Muirkirk. Mr McCubbin, who was formerly in charge at Cronberry and Lugar, will continue to control the three stations

ATHLETICS PROFILE**WILLIE STRICKLAND**

William Strickland, aged 37 years, height 5 ft 7½ ins., weight 11 stone, has been running now for three years, and is well known throughout Scotland as a personality runner. Willie should be admired as an ambassador of Muirkirk in sport. He has competed at most athletic meetings, and is known for his cheerfulness and fighting ability, and for doing well in any race he competes in.

This season he has won several prizes in cross-country racing. Willie says that his successes have been due to the fact that he is pretty fit, and cross-country running suits him better than track.

Willie runs about 20 miles in a week's training. His best performance to date is finishing 200th in the Scottish 9-mile Cross Country Championship in a field of 360 runners. This season he hopes to do better in the National Championships.

Willie thinks that the youngsters of to-day don't get enough exercise, and are not interested in taking part in athletics because they are frightened of hard exercise, and to be any good in any sport one must train hard.

Willie has one regret in his athletic career, that is—he started in athletics too late in life. He thinks it is a great sport, and the exercise keeps one fit, and there is no weight trouble.

Speaking for myself, I think Willie deserves more credit than he gets. So, Willie, I wish you all the success in 1962, and I hope you do better than in previous seasons. Every youngster should have some respect for him, as he is showing them the way in sport. To him years mean nothing—it's guts that count.

BILLY STRICKLAND

Billy Strickland, aged 20, height five feet, weight eight stone, is possibly the smallest runner in Scotland, but what he lacks in height he makes up for in guts and determination.

Billy has been running for only one year, and has turned in some good performances over cross-country. He lacks a bit in tactics and how to pace himself in a race, but he is learning fast.

Since joining Ayr Seaforth he has secured a place in the cross-country team and is holding his own with the best of them.

Billy was sorry to see the local Club split up, which left only a few to carry on together in training runs. Recently he has been training by himself, having no one to train with, and he is looking forward to competing in the Scottish 6-miles Cross Country Championships, and I predict that, providing he trains hard and regularly, he will finish well up the field.

Once again, here is another local lad who deserves some praise for his efforts.

JAMES McLATCHIE

James McLatchie, aged 20, height 6 ft. 1½ ins., weight 12 stone; is reputed to be the strongest runner over distances from 2½—6 miles cross country. Although he has won every title he is eligible for, he dislikes racing over country. He says 2½ miles is o.k., 4 miles not bad, but 6 miles is hard and boring.

His biggest disappointment came when he had to withdraw

from the Scottish team, due to being laid up with "vaccination" flu'. He now hopes he will be fit enough to defend his Scottish title at Hamilton.

This season he has been training very hard. His training methods are his own, and so far he has had great success with this schedule—

Sunday—8-15 miles cross-country.

Monday—10 miles cross-country. 2 hour's weight and circuit training in the evening.

Tuesday—4 x 940 yds, 4 minutes' rest between. 9½ miles road at night.

Wednesday—10 x 100 yards, 1 minute's rest, 6 x 100 yards. 2 hours' weight and circuit training at night.

Thursday—30 minutes' sprinting. 6 miles road at night.

Friday—rest.

Saturday—6 miles cross country.

The above schedule is what he has been doing throughout the winter months. Many times he has felt tired for several days due to the hard training which he has been doing.

What does this season hold for James on the track? Last season he achieved 1 minute 55 seconds for ½-mile; 4-16 for 1 mile; 14-23 for 3 miles. Many people think he should be doing a 4-minute mile to be any good in athletics, but one must walk before he can run. So this year he is hoping for the following times—½-mile, 1-52; 1 mile, 4-06; 3 miles, 13-45.

He gives one piece of advice to youngsters—if you want to be a good athlete, train hard and constant

GEOFFREY McLATCHIE

Geoffrey McLatchie, aged 17 years, height 5 ft 9 ins., weight 10½ stone; goes into his third year in athletics fitter and faster than ever before, due to the fact that he has also been training hard and regular.

Geoffrey has quite a good record for sprinting, winning several races as a youth over 100 yards. I think we will see him at his best over 220 yards this season.

His fastest times at the moment are:—100 yards, 10.5; 220 yards, 23.4.

FIND THE SINGER

Many local viewers who may be following the STV "Find the Singer" contest on Monday nights may not be aware that the Johnny Clark who appears on the titles as arranger of the Lou Preager Band orchestrations is none other than Muirkirk's own John Clark, who started his musical career a number of years ago with our local dance band of that time, "The Modernaires." Even then John made his mark in arranging the numbers which enabled that combination to win the All-Britain Semi-Professional Class B Championships at Manchester, and since these days he has been making his mark as a professional musician. He is, of course, also the pianist in Lou Preagers's Orchestra, and has appeared with various leading dance bands.

It is very pleasing indeed to know that John, who incidentally, is a very modest personality, is making his presence felt as one of the leading arrangers and musicians in the London and British dance band circles.

ROAD BLOCKED . . . BY RAILWAY ENGINE!

There was a most unusual road block on the Sorn Road at Limmerhaugh Brae on Sunday afternoon (8th April), when motor traffic was held up, of all things, by a railway engine!

It was the "pug" used at the former Wellwood Screening Plant which was being transported to another location on a road bogey being pulled and pushed by two heavy tractors.

At the Brae a shower of hail had made the roadway slippery, and when the pulling tractor skidded, it and the pug slid back on to the pushing tractor, which was damaged.

With a total of seventy tons to handle, this was no joke for the men on the job, but eventually they got their convoy down the hill to the farm, where it remained overnight, and after repairs they were able to get on their way next day.

JOY DAY FOR SCOTLAND

Scots folk everywhere seemed to go fitba' daft on Saturday (14th April), when, after 25 years of waiting and hoping, Scotland trounced England 2-0 in the home international match at Hampden Park. It was a great show against the strongly-fancied English side, and our own district had special satisfaction in that the Scottish team was captained by Eric Caldow, formerly of Muirkirk Juniors, and now with Rangers. Many folks followed the match on their TV screens, and to those among the huge crowd at Hampden Park—and Muirkirk had quite a strong representation—it was an unforgettable experience.

OBITUARY

The villagers were grieved to learn of the sudden death of Mrs William Gaw, 18 Colthart Drive, on 19th April. Mrs Gaw, who had been shopping in the village, called in at a neighbour's house and complained of feeling unwell just before she collapsed and passed away. She was 53 years of age. Two well-known residents also passed away last week. On Thursday, Miss Isabella Findlay (75), 40 Main Street, died suddenly at Ballochmyle Hospital, and Mrs William Mirrey (72), 11 Middlefield Drive, died at the same hospital on Friday.

MARCHING ON

Glenbuck as a village may be but a tattered relic of the old days, but the big sporting news at the weekend prompts us to think that, like "John Brown's body" of the old song, "its soul goes marching on."

We refer to the achievements of Bob and Willie Shankly, members of the famous Shankly footballing family of Glenbuck, whose prowess on the football field played a prominent part in Glenbuck's magnificent record over the years.

Since the end of their playing days, Bob and Willie have proved themselves just as successful in the managerial sphere, and each would surely have one of the greatest moments ever on Saturday, when their teams won their respective League championships. Bob, who manages Dundee, steered his Club to win the Scottish First Division League Championship for the first time in its history of almost seventy years, and Willie's Club, Liverpool, won the English Second Division Championship to gain re-entry to the First Division next season. A wonderful and possibly a record-breaking performance for two footballing brothers, and we offer them our heartiest congratulations and wish them continued success in the years ahead.

TENNIS ACE

While on the subject of Glenbuck, we were extremely interested to note from a cutting taken from an Australian newspaper that a young man with a strong local connection has been chosen as a member of Australia's official tennis touring team. He is 18-year-old Owen Davidson, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Davidson, 98 Alma Street, Footscray, and a grandson of Mr Hugh Davidson and the late Mrs Davidson (Kitty Keir). Owens father left Glenbuck with his parents for Australia as a boy of 12 and of course we met his grandfather as recently as three years ago, when he was over on his second holiday visit to Scotland.

Owen, who was given a civic reception and presentation in Footscray before leaving on his overseas tour, is rated the second best junior player in Australia, and is the city of Footscray's best-ever tennis player. Four months ago he teamed up with Tim Clayton, and the two lads have since captured three of Australia's top junior titles—the New South Wales, Victorian, and South Australian championships.

Along with other team mates, they are playing matches in Port Moresby, Manila, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Beirut, Sicily, Italy, Barcelona, Paris, and Lugano, and the next step will be famous Wimbledon at the end of June, followed by a further series of matches in Holland, Germany, and Scandinavian countries before returning to Australia in September.

Owen, a well-built six-footer, is tipped as a coming Davis Cup star, and we will follow his progress with the keenest interest.

PROMISING YOUNG STAR

A reader has kindly handed in a cutting from the "Sunday Express," which devotes a good bit of space to a young lady with a strong Muirkirk connection. We quote.

"Shiela Forbes, daughter of a former Glasgow butcher, has landed the juvenile lead in the new Noel Coward musical, 'Sail Away,' which opens in the West End next month. The Queen id going to the first night, as is London's high society and the top names in show business. . . . Sheila talks American, not Scots. For it was to New York that her parents emigrated. And she has just left a TV series there to take the Coward role in London 'I've heard so much about Scotland from the folks' she said. 'Dad was in Glasgow, but he came originally from Muirkirk. . . . Mum is going to send me a list of places and people to go and see. That's when I get time. . . . But I'm used to being busy. I've been that way since I started modelling when I was 14. Then I took singing, dancing, and acting lessons, got into TV advertising, then into Broadway musicals like 'The Music Man,' 'Take Me Along,' and 'Bye Bye Birdie.'"

The Muirkirk connection? Sheila's dad is Mr Andrew Forbes, who lived with his folks at Lennox Place, Main Street. As a lad he left for Glasgow with his mother and other members of the family, where he learned his trade before going to U.S.A.

So Sheila may find time one day to visit Muirkirk, where she will be welcomed by a goodly number of relations still domiciled in our district.

FATHER CONWAY LEAVING

Father Conway, who has been in charge of St. Thomas R.C. Church, Muirkirk, since October, 1953, is leaving on 20th July to take charge of the parish of St. Andrew's, Dumfries, where the Cathedral was burned to the ground some time ago, and where Canon O'Sullivan died just last week.

During his sojourn in Muirkirk, Father Conway's pleasant personality has endeared him not only to his parishioners, but to the whole of the community, in which he has proved himself one of Nature's gentlemen indeed, and we feel that in his way-going we are all losing a valuable asset.

We can assure him that the best wishes of all Muirkirk folks with whom he has come into contact will go with him to his new sphere and that he will always retain a very warm place in the affections of the villagers.

In October a presentation social was held in the old Community centre to mark the way-going of Father Conway.

OBITUARY

Mr Thomas Barrie, who was secretary of Muirkirk Old Folk's Club Men's Section, passed away on 11th July. He had been in failing health, and was predeceased by his wife a short time ago. Mr Barrie was 70 years of age. Memories of other days were also stirred when we learned of the death at Neerim, South Australia, of Mrs Caldwell, whom we remember, along with members of the family, when they lived in Kirkgreen and Main Street. It is a good number of years now since they went out to Australia.

THE LAST OLD PUMP

The last of the old-fashioned pumps which used to provide the water supply for the village was removed from Torhill in August. As well as providing domestic water supplies, the pumps were handy for a wee gossip among the womenfolk in days gone by, and we also remember them as the scene of the traditional "feet washings" which preceded local weddings.

IS THIS THE SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME?

Under this title the "Daily Herald" on Saturday last devoted a half page illustrated article on Glenbuck, past and present, in the light of the serious position of the Scottish coalfield. Interviews with residents and Councillors were featured.

THE FUTURE OF KAMES

The National Coal Board's announcement about the contraction of the mining industry came as a sore blow to the Scottish Coalfield. Kames Colliery has been placed in Group A (collieries likely to continue if potential reserves are realised).

OBITUARY

Mr David Rennie, formerly of Rennie's Bar, Muirkirk, passed away on 30th September at Dumfries. Mr Rennie was for many years a well-known personality in our district. As a young man he played outside right for Muirkirk Athletic, and with the late Tom Gourlay, made up a formidably wing. In later years he was an enthusiastic bowler and curler. Mr James Menzies, who died at Portobello, was another well-known footballer in his younger days, playing with considerable success at centre-forward for Glenbuck Cherrypickers and Muirkirk Athletic. He also had a long connection as a member and official with Muirkirk Angling Association. Mr Gilbert Hamilton, who died on 1st October was associated with his family in running the Welcome Cafe at Glasgow Road, and was well known and highly respected in our district.

HOWFORD BRIDGE

The new bridge at Howford, near Mauchline, was formerly opened in September by Mr Michael Noble, Secretary of State for Scotland.

The clear span of 300 feet of the reinforced concrete bridge is the longest in Scotland. The cost was £294,000.

NOW A CANON

The Rev. Myles Moriarty, who was for many years parish priest at St. Thomas Church, Muirkirk, was appointed a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter by the Bishop of Galloway on the 4th October.

LINK WITH OLD MUIRKIRK

On Tuesday (3rd July), it was pleasant to meet and have a crack with Mr William M. Weir who, although born in Cumnock, spent his boyhood days in Muirkirk, where he lived with his parents at Linkieburn, his father, Mr John Weir, being foreman moulder at the Ironworks.

Mr Weir started his working career as an apprentice with the late Mr. James Young, plumber, and finished his apprenticeship at Glasgow before serving in the Royal Navy during the First World War. He was later instructor in plumbing at Cathcart Demobilisation centre, and in 1923 emigrated to America, where he was in charge of the plumber and pipe-fitting department of the Hudson Engineering Coy. in Hoboken, New Jersey. After his retirement he and Mrs Weir returned to Glasgow six years ago. His wife died three years ago and was buried in Muirkirk cemetery.

Mention of Mr Weir will no doubt recall memories of other days for many of our older readers.

NO CLAIMANTS FOR MINNIE BROWN'S FORTUNE

The estate of Miss Minnie brown, fruiterer and confectioner, who died at her Main Street home over three years ago, leaving £17,000, has been unclaimed. No legal claimants have been found, and now the money will be kept in trust by the Crown officials in case anyone comes forward at a later date.

In Edinburgh last week (May 28th) a Crown official said:—"The estate amounts to about £17,000 and most of it will be kept in trust and will always be available should some rightful claimant come forward."

ATHLETICS

One of Scotland's best prospects in athletics is our own local lad, James McLatchie, better known on the track as Big Jim. This year he has really shot into the limelight with some of his courageous displays. With his 4 mins. 8.3 secs for the one-mile he moves in behind Everett (4-2.8) and Stark (4-6.4) as Scotland's third fastest miler ever.

During the season McLatchie raced 48 times, winning on 23 occasions, and was placed second and third eight and five times respectively. Of his twelve unplaced runs five of them were 4ths. He represented Scotland in every international event this season, except for the one that mattered most—the Empire Games at Perth. He brought his half-mile and 1-mile times down from 1 min. 59 secs. and 4 mins 16 secs. to 1-53.8 and 4-8.3.

The race which stands out in his mind as being the one which gave him his greatest thrill, was winning the 1-mile at Cowal for the third year in succession.

THE LATE DAVID SHAW

Mr David Shaw, a well-known local personality, collapsed and died suddenly at his home at 2 Wellwood Avenue on 11th November—his birthday. Mr Shaw, who was 73, was a native of the Irvine Valley, but had lived over 40 years in Muirkirk. He was manager of Muirkirk Co-operative Society's Boot-Repairing Department, and retired in July, 1960, after 39 years' loyal service with the Society. A pawky and genial personality, Mr Shaw became a very well-known and highly-respected figure in our community, and apart from his business activities, over the years he was closely identified with various local organisations, including the Bowling Club, choirs, discussion groups, and the Co-operative Board of Management and Education Committee. Readers will join with us in extending to Mrs Shaw, Ada and her husband our sympathy in their sudden loss.

SUDDEN DEATH

The sad news reached Muirkirk in December of the sudden death in Leicester of a young man, Mr William Hill, eldest son of the late Mr Robert Hill and of Mrs Hill, formerly of Springhill Terrace. Mr Hill, who served in the R.A.F. during the war, was under-manager at Douglas West and Highhouse Collieries before going as an oversman to Desford Colliery, Leicestershire. Later he left the mines for health reasons and took up an appointment with the American Caterpillar Tractor Coy. Mr Hill was only 41 years of age.

FATAL ACCIDENT

The villagers were grieved to learn of the death in Kames Pit as a result of an accident early on 21st December, of Mr Peter McAthy, Harwood Avenue. Work was proceeding on the widening of a road, when a roof fall caused a dislodgement of several heavy steel girders. McAthy was caught, and Mr James Menzies (34), Stitt Place, sustained a leg injury. The men were got clear in a few minutes, and desperate efforts were made to revive McAthy, but without success.

Peter, 40 years of age, was married with a family of three, and a particularly poignant feature of the tragedy was that Mrs McAthy's sister was also widowed a week ago.

SUDDEN DEATH

Matthew Anderson Smith, 63 years of age, a picker at Kames Colliery, collapsed and died suddenly while working at the picking tables on Monday forenoon (4th June). Death was due to coronary thrombosis. Matthew resided with his sister, Mrs Boland, 5 Middlefield Drive, and we would express our sympathy with the family in their sudden bereavement.

THE STAIR ROW

Following a paragraph in a newspaper recently about an old lady of 93 years of age in Glasgow who had been callously robbed of £2, and who was reported to be a native of Muirkirk, Mr Steve Bradford thoughtfully called on the old lady at her home. It transpired that it was her husband, William Melvin, who had been a native of Muirkirk, having been born at the Stair Row in 1869. His father was a fitter at the old Furnaces.

Incidentally, do you know where the Stair Row was?

As a result of this query the following letter to the Editor appeared in the issue of 6th December:—

THE STAIR ROW

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—It was interesting to read in the November 22 issue of the "Advertiser" about the Stair Row. I have heard my parents mention it. It was at the **front** part of the old Stableyard.

I somehow think there must have been an old mill wheel connected to it, as big stones were showing through the ground. My father said they were some of the foundations stones; often he put ashes down to cover them.

I have also heard them say that at one time my granny lived at the Stair Row. What surprised me more was to hear that on Sundays she walked from the Stair Row to Lugar Church for the morning service.

Can you imagine young folks walking so far to attend church services these days?

Maybe some of your older readers will be able to give more details about Stair Row.—Yours sincerely,

JEANIE MUIR (Miss)

130 Craigleith Row,
Edinburgh 4.P.S.

—We lived in front Stableyard for many years.

GOLDEN WEDDING**Mr and Mrs JOHN HASTIE**

Our heartiest congratulations go out this week to Mr and Mrs John Hastie, 14 Meanlour Drive, who were married at Glenbuck on 20th December, 1912, by the late Rev. Colin A. McKenzie.

Anybody who has had connections with or knew Glenbuck over the past fifty years will know Mr and Mrs Hastie, a kindly couple who resided at Glenbuck Public Hall, where Mr. Hastie was caretaker for thirty years, and as such made a host of friends amongst district folks and many visitors over the years.

A native of Glespin, John Hastie came to Glenbuck with his folks at the early age of four, and as a young lad his ability

at football soon became apparent. He played for the famous Glenbuck Cherrypickers, and, perhaps more important to some, he was inside left for Glasgow Celtic for two seasons. He continued his interest in football as an official of the old Cherries, and was secretary for some time, while he represented the Club in the wider administrative sphere, being made a life member of the Ayrshire Junior F.A.

Mrs Hastie, a native of Old Kirkpatrick, came to our area as a district nurse, and we have fond recollections of kindnesses received from her and John on very many occasions on visits to never-to-be-forgotten functions in the dear old Glenbuck Public Hall.

It is pleasing indeed to know that this fine and highly-respected couple are hale and hearty, and their many friends will join with us in wishing them many happy years at their home in Muirkirk, where they came about seven years ago. They have had a family of three, of whom a son and a daughter survive, and they have six grand-children.

FOOTBALL (Season 1961—62)

Mr George Bain, Muirkirk, recently appointed President of Ayrshire F.A., has now been elected to the Executive Committee of the Scottish Junior Football Association. This is quite an honour in the junior football world.

Muirkirk Juniors got away to a flier in the new season with a fine 3-2 win over Auchinleck Talbot at Ladeside Park, when the team fielded was:—Stevenson; Connell, Gray; McMorran, Walters, Scott; Docherty, Cowan, McLean, McWatters, Bryson.

However, it was the mixture as before, as far as the other results were concerned, and there were some heavy defeats in store for the juniors. In the West of Scotland Cup 1st Round they could only draw 3-3 with Thorniewood United, and lost the replay 4—1.

They travelled to Perth Craigie in the 1st round of the Scottish Cup, and put up a good display to win by 3 goals to 2. The team was:—Stevenson; Reid, Gray; McCallum, McLennan, Scott; Docherty, Wales, Findlay, Devine, Cowan. In the 2nd round they were away to Loanhead and lost 4—1.

So that was virtually it for another season, although the Club did manage to break even financially.

CHURCHES FOOTBALL

Muirkirk Community Council entered a team in the Churches League and did really well in their debut season, with a terrific run in the Scottish Cup. They travelled to Sandyford (Dennistoun) and drew 3—3. In the replay at Ladeside Park they beat the Glasgow combination 1—0 after extra time. The Muirkirk team was:—Murray; Parker, Bradford; Ward, Frew, Bell; Campbell, Rae, Muir, Ross, McGarey.

However, Sandyford protested, claiming (and rightly so) that extra time should not have been played. The protest was upheld and the game was replayed at Ladeside Park, when Muirkirk ran out good winners by 4—2. The team was:—Murray; Parker, McGarey; Ward, Frew, L. Bell; Campbell, Rae, Muir, J. Bell, Peters. And so Muirkirk had reached the final of the national competition at the first time of asking—no mean achievement!.

The final tie was played at Ladeside and ended in a 0—0 draw. The replay, at Glasgow, had to be held over till the next season, and was played in early September. Unfortunately, it was an ash park, and did not suit the Muirkirk lads, who never the less put up a sterling show in the second half, but lost out by two goals to one. Team:—Murray; Bradford, McGarey; Ward, Frew, L. Bell; Campbell, J. Bell, Ross, Little, Muir.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

Mrs James Johnstone selected as Muirkirk's Coal Queen.

Thomas Findlay re-elected President of Muirkirk Angling Association.

Mr George Pringle re-elected Chairman of Muirkirk Branch of the British Lrgion.

Muirkirk Branch of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association won the Walker Cup Competition. Team—W. Mathieson, Jack Laidlaw, W. Shaw, and W. McPhee (Capt.).

Mr J. N. Harrison elected President of Muirkirk Bowling Club.

Mr Robert Adamson, well known Muirkirk veteran died suddenly in his 91st year.

A fortnight of glorious weather reported in May.

J. McLatchie broke the previous record for the Cairntable Race by 1 min. 59 secs. His time—32 mins. 7 secs.

Mr James Masterton, Chairman of Kames Miners Union Branch, was re-elected to the Scottish Miners' Executive for his fifth two-year term.

Parish Church Sunday School picnic held to Crossflatt. 357 scholars and adults marched to the Old Glebe.

Muirkirk Anglers took five of the first six places in the N.C.B. East Ayr Area annual competition out of 36 competitors. The winner—Bert Dempster.

Mr John Taylor (Cunningham House) re-elected President of Muirkirk Ornithological Society.

Muirkirk J.S. School Sports Championships:—
Primary Boys—Stewart Grant, Girls—Janette McLatchie.
Secondary Boys—Brian Young and William Archibald (equal); Girls—Janet Walker.

Mr Thomas McMorran, Garronhill, appointed Manager of Glespin Co-operative Society.

At Mauchline Flower Show Mr Tom Barrie won the cup for most points in the chrysanthemum section.

Mr Thomas Samson completed 47 years as a clerk in district colliery offices.

Mr John McMillan completed 25 years' service at Muirkirk Gas Works.

Sister Madge Taylor installed Worthy Matron of Wellwood Chapter, No. 159, O.E.S.

Bro James Taylor, Jr., installed R.W.M. of Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201.

Muirkirk man, Mr Andrew Steele, M.A., appointed Headmaster of Patna J.S. School.

Dux of Muirkirk J.S. School—Elsiebeth Savage.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1962**BIRTHS**

- LOCHHEAD.—At Kilmarnock on 3rd January to Mr and Mrs James Lochhead (Margaret Smith); a daughter.
- BECK.—To Mr and Mrs Angus Beck (Janette Murdoch); a daughter.
- NICOLSON.—On 3rd March to Mr and Mrs Campbell Nicolson (Jeanette Rowe).
- MORLEY.—On 17th March to Mr and Mrs Edwin Morley (nee Wallace); a son.
- BONE.—On 17th March to Mr and Mrs Frank Bone (Jenny McKean); a son.
- LANG.—In Rhodesia on 20th April to Mr and Mrs James Lang (Isa McKenzie); a son.
- BARRIE.—On 26th April to Mr and Mrs James Barrie; a son.
- NEILL.—On 5th May to Mr and Mrs Stephen Neill (Josephine Boland); a daughter.
- BUTLER.—At Glenrothes on 2nd July to Mr and Mrs John Butler (Betty Little); a son.
- ROSS.—At Edinburgh on 4th July to Mr and Mrs George Ross (May Jamieson); a son.
- COWAN.—At Kilmarnock on 14th August to Mr and Mrs Alex. Cowan (Margaret Murdoch); a son.
- TAIT.—At Manchester on 17th December to Mr and Robert Tait (Mary Cosgrove); a daughter.
- FLEMING.—At Irvine on 29th December to Mr and Mrs Milton Fleming (Eleanor Lochhead); a son

MARRIAGES

- ALEX. FULTON to EMMA GAW on 20th January.
- JOHN BEVERIDGE SMITH to MARGARET PENMAN on 10th February.
- WILLIAM VEITCH to SOPHIA HAZLE on 17th February.
- KENNETH SUTHERLAND to ANNE LITTLE on 23rd February.
- WILLIAM MITCHELL to AGNES MUIR on 10th March.
- JOHN HAWKINS to AGNES SHAW on on 24th March.
- DANIEL WARNOCK to MARY DAVIDSON on 24th March.
- NEIL JOHNSTONE to JENNY CLARK on 31st March.
- WILLIAM REID to AGNES BOLAND on 5th May.
- THOMAS BYRNE to ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY on 30th June.
- JOHN BECK to MARY RICHARDS on 7th July.
- PETER DORRANS to ISABEL PATERSON on 14th July.
- MICHAEL FORD to OLIVE CULLEN on 21st July.
- HUGH BAILLIE to JANET MILLAR on 4th August.
- ROBERT PURVES to MARY McCUTCHEON on 18th August.
- WILLIAM SMITH to AGNES WILSON on 31st August.
- JOHN BROWN to MARGARET PARKER on 15th Sept.

MARRIAGES (Continued)

- JOHN MACKIN to CATHERINE TRAIN on 22nd September.
- DAVID BRADFORD to to ANNE WHARRIE on 29th September.
- DOUGALD McDOUGALL to JEAN BECK on 22nd September.
- GEORGE LOGGIE to MARY McKIE on 22nd December.
- ANDREW BAIN to MARION STODART on 27th October.
- JOHN MILLAR to MARY RANKIN on 8th December.

DEATHS

- ADAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 17th January, Janet Telfer, 46 Wellwood Street; aged 85 years.
- FINDLAY.—At 22 Garronhill on 11th January, John Findlay; aged 66 years.
- MIDDLETON.—At Ballochmyle on 20th January, Georgina Graham, 11 Torhill.
- McCALL.—At Ballochmyle on 19th January, Agnes Purdie.
- ROSS.—At Glasgow on 21st January, Elizabeth Anderson, 1 Burns Avenue; aged 75 years.
- KNOX.—At Ballochmyle on 6th February, Anne Tuddenham, 8 Kirkgreen; aged 75 years.
- McLAREN.—At 11 Colthart Drive on 19th February, Duncan McLaren; aged 44 years.
- GEBBIE.—In Canada on 4th March, Francis Gebbie.
- LANG.—At 3 Pagan Walk on 10th March, Michael Lang; aged 75 years.
- McNAIR.—As the result of an accident at Kames Colliery on 8th March, Hector McNair, 30 Lapraik Avenue; aged 39 years.
- ADAMSON.—At Glasgow on 18th March, Robert Adamson, Wellwood Street; aged 91 years.
- MURDOCH.—At Dunblane on 22nd March, Andrew Murdoch.
- McATEER.—At Barrhead on 6th April, James McAteer; aged 28 years.
- FINDLAY.—At Ballochmyle on 19th April, Isabella Blackwood, 40 Main Street; aged 75 years.
- GAW.—At Colthart Drive 19th April, Emma Lee; aged 53 years.
- MIRREY.—At Ballochmyle on 20th April, Mary Wilson, 11 Middlefield Drive; aged 72 years.
- BARRIE.—At 22 Bridge Street on 26th April, Annie Mitchell; aged 63 years.
- BONE.—At Beaconhill on 28th April, John Bone; aged 80 years.
- McLACHLAN.—At Ballochmyle on 28th April, Neil McLachlan, 36 Harwood Avenue; aged 76 years.
- McDADE.—At 10 Henderson Drive on 11th May, Ann McGarry; aged 70 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

- WILSON.—In U.S.A. on 7th May, Henry Wilson.
- SMITH.—At 5 Middlefield Drive on 4th June, Matthew Smith; aged 63 years.
- MURDOCH.—At 8 Burns Avenue on 20th June, Margaret Alexander; aged 63 years.
- QUEEN.—At Ballochmyle on 23rd June, William Queen, 19 Colthart Drive; aged 72 years.
- THOMSON.—At Newmilns on 27th June, Samuel Thomson; aged 66 years.
- MANSFIELD.—At Glasgow on 10th July, Joseph Mansfield; aged 90 years.
- BARRIE.—At 22 Bridge Street on 11th July, Thomas Barrie; aged 70 years.
- CALDWELL.—In Australia on 25th June, Catherine Arthur (Lightshaw); aged 84 years.
- HILL.—At Glenafton on 3rd August, George Hill; aged 50.
- NAISMITH.—At Glasgow on 6th August, Sarah Weir, late of Glenbuck.
- PARK.—At Ballochmyle on 5th August, Matthew Park, 6 Stitt Place; aged 81 years.
- McCALL.—At 9 Shawknowe Avenue on 12th August, Elizabeth Hodge; aged 79 years.
- QUEEN.—At 38 Hareshaw Crescent on 19th August, Louis Queen; aged 31 years.
- SMITH.—At Ballochmyle on 21st August, William Smith 33 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 36 years.
- VALLANCE.—At Ballochmyle on 18th August, John Vallance, Crossflatt Cottage; aged 66 Years.
- CROSBIE.—At Glasgow on 25th August, William Crosbie.
- GEBBIE.—At Luton on 28th August, Geo. Gebbie; aged 71.
- MURDOCH.—At Ballochmyle on 28th August, William Murdoch, 91 Main Street, aged 84 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

- STODART.—At Edinburgh on 23rd August, Thomas Stodart, 42 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 52 years.
- SHIELDS.—At Ayr on 24th September, William Shields, 18 Lapraik Avenue.
- HAMILTON.—At Wellwood Avenue on 1st October, Gilbert Hamilton, aged 56 years.
- MENZIES.—At Portobello on 30th September, James Menzies, 18 Lapraik Avenue; aged 70 years.
- RENNIE.—At Dumfries on 30th September David Rennie (Rennie's Bar); aged 77 years.
- WOODBURN.—On 9th October Thomas Woodburn, aged 58 years.
- COLTHART.—At Glasgow on 29th October, William Colthart.
- DOW.—At Ballochmyle on 31st October, Jemima Shields, 45 Wardlaw Avenue; aged 66 years.
- McCANN.—At Ballochmyle on 8th November, Alice McCann, 18 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 58 years.
- SHAW.—At 2 Wellwood Avenue on 11th November, David Shaw (Cobbler); aged 73 years.
- BARRIE.—At 32 Hareshaw Crescent on 27th November, Thomas Barrie; aged 82 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At Ayr on 28th November, George Davidson.
- DUKE.—At Edinburgh on 7th December, Annie Mathieson.
- HILL.—At Leceister on 12th December, William Hill.
- FERGUSON.—At Ballochmyle on 25th December, James Ferguson, 6 Railway Buildings; aged 83 years.
- McATHY.—At Kames Coliery on 21st December, as the result of an accident, Peter McAthy, 21 Harwood Avenue; aged 40 years.
- MACKIN.—At Ballochmyle on 28th December, Sarah McDade, 14 Stitt Place; aged 62 years.



THE STORE BUTCHER AT RAILWAY BUILDINGS, SOUTHSIDE

CHAPTER FIFTY-SIX

(1963)

The Muir Kirk o' Kyle

From a Book,

"Through the Parish of Muirkirk,"

by

J. M. HODGE,

and published about sixty years ago

In fargone days what is now known as the Parish of Muirkirk seems to have been a kind of debatable land: belonging to no one in particular, yet forming the hunting ground of many. It was thickly covered with wildwood, and abounding in game such as wild boar, the deer, and other kinds, the pursuit and capture of which was a source of pleasure and profit to the rude inhabitants and sportsmen of that time. When Mauchline was granted to the Monks of Melrose in the 12th century, the district now known as Muirkirk was included in the charter, and it was then extensively covered with wood, traces of which we find in the names of some of the places, as Wellwood, Netherwood and others. The clearing process has been carried too far, as a lack of shelter is one of the great wants of the locality; a want we are pleased to say, that is being remedied by some of our landed proprietors. In the days of Bruce and "Wallace wight" this district was traversed by warlike men passing and repassing between Ayr and Lanark where the English soldiers were at that time garrisoned.

Douglas Castle, with its well-known name of "Castle Dangerous," lay between, and was many a time the scene of wild, deadly strife between the "Douglas" and his followers and their Southern foes. Tradition says in those times a great battle was fought on the wilds of Kirnatable between the English and the Douglas and his men, in which the latter was victorious.

It is also recorded that Archibald, Earl of Angus, sent a message of defiance to the King saying he could hold his own on the skirts of Kirnatable against his whole army.

Although many such tales regarding the district and its inhabitants have been handed down, still it was not till the year 1631, in the month of July, when the district was disjoined from Mauchline and created a parish, under the name of Muir Kirk o' Kyle, that it may be said to have a history of its own. This deed of separation from Mauchline was ratified by Parliament in 1633, and John, Earl of Loudoun, made Patron. The first minister of the Parish was the Rev. John Reid.

When the kirk was built there do not seem to have been many houses in the near vicinity, and those then standing (from old accounts) seem to have been known by the name "Garran," which was apparently discontinued and the Kirk o' the Muir, the Muir Kirk o' Kyle, or its more modern abbreviation, Muirkirk, substituted. The old name "Garran" remains in the old portion of the town known as Garronhill, the houses of which, including the old Burnside, were amongst the first in the place. They were built on the side of the old Edinburgh Road, and there, at that time, were to be found among them a Notary's Office and the Village Change-house.

The first kirk that was built seems to have been a very homely affair, barn-shaped, with narrow windows and thatched roof and very few seats inside. In the olden days "fairs" were held inside the kirk, the stalls for the various wares being set

up against the walls. The first kirk was repaired and the walls heightened in 1775, yet Tibbie Pagan, writing of it afterwards, said:

"No outward beauty I discern,
You're scarcely fit to be a barn."

We are reminded that the place could not boast of school or schoolmaster in those days. In the records of the Ayr Presbytery, in the year 1644, it is recorded: "No school in Moorkirk;" and in 1735 the people took out an "instrument" against the heritors "for not having provided a school or salary according to law." And these were the good old days.

The Auld Kirk o' the Muir, for the next half-century, figures prominently in the history of the Church of Scotland. Owing to its isolation and the wild, bleak appearance of the district, it became in Covenanting times a place of shelter to many who were driven from their homes in other localities. Soon the time came when it also had a share in the persecution, when its minister had to give up his place to a curate appointed by Government, and deeds of bloody cruelty were done in this wild district that sounded loud throughout Scotland and made the names of Graham of Claverhouse and others hated bywords.

The district presents a very bleak, wild appearance, especially in winter, when rain and storms are prevalent, and to the eye of a stranger seems dreary and uninviting. The hills around are often covered with snow, and present a cold wintry appearance, yet in summertime these same hills are green and gay with wild flowers, and vocal with the song of birds.

The Rev. John Shepherd (one of the old Ministers of the Parish), writing about the weather, said: "Although the air is sharp and often loaded with damp, yet, owing to the high winds that prevail, it is not unwholesome. The year 1782 was a year of severe frost and heavy storms of rain and snow, the straw was bad, the meal black and sweetish. The doctors pronounced it unwholesome, and said it would bring disease on man and beast, yet, strange to tell, cattle were never better than in the following spring and less disease among the inhabitants."

The River Ayr (with its tributaries Greenock and Garpel) rises at its eastern extremity and flows down through it, with level holms of rich bearing soil on either side. From these, to the right and left, rise the hills, the highest of which, Cairntable, has an altitude of 1944 feet above sea level. These hills seem to keep watch and ward over the wide expanse below—hence we have the name Wardlaw, or Watcher's Hill.

We can easily imagine that this remote, lonely district, so far removed from the busy haunts of men, would become a favourite resort in the times of persecution to those who

"Were hunted over field and flood
By enemies thirsting for their blood

And so we find in the times referred to that the "Auld Kirk o' the Muir" attains a place in the annals of our country. In connexion with the suffering Church of Scotland it occupies a prominent place. It became the scene of cruel, horrid tragedies, the mention of which makes our hearts ache and the fire

flash from our eye, and rouses within us all that is noble and patriotic.

“O wild, traditional Scotland
Thy briery burns and braes
Are full of hallowed memories
And scenes of other days.
"There, wives and little children
Were faithful to the death,
And graves of martyr'd Warriors
Are in the desert heath.”

In the year 1771 there are recorded some very curious things in connection with the parish. For example, we find the Minister, the Rev. Mr Mitchell, complaining about having to borrow Communion Cups, and the Heritors stenting themselves to the amount of four pounds Scots in every hundred pounds Scots of valuation to procure these, Mr Mitchell being instructed to procure silver cups at a cost not exceeding £18, the money left to go to purchase furniture for the school which they had agreed to build for the parish. This was the first school in the parish. The old building is still standing in its own grounds at the Burnside.

The school was gifted by Mr Niven, Tardoes. Its cost was £40, and it was built by Hugh Begg & Son, Masons, Saddlehead. The first schoolmaster was Benjamin Maule, appointed at a salary of £7 15s 4¼d. He was to receive 2s per quarter for reading and writing, half-a-crown for arithmetic, 2s 6d for proclamation of banns, and 6d for baptism of a child. Benjamin Maule subsequently was appointed session clerk and kirk treasurer, for which he was to receive 15s yearly. A year or two later we find a Mr Archibald Thom filling the place of parish schoolmaster, with an increase of branches taught to Latin and book-keeping, and of salary from all sources to about £30. The schoolmaster's salary was made up from so much rate on the valuation of the Heritors in the parish, 22 in number, the Earl of Loudoun and Laird of Ligan being the two largest.

As has already been mentioned, the first kirk was repaired in 1775; and so we find it recorded that this was done by the Heritors, at a cost of £7 2s, the work being executed by John Park, Strathaven. This included the walls being raised, two new windows put in, the inside walls plastered, and a new roof put on.

In 1790 the Muirkirk Iron Coy. made a proposal to the Kirk Session to build an aisle to the Church at their own expense, on condition that they would get a lease of it for 100 years. This was for the accommodation of their workmen. It was refused, and steps were taken to have a new and more commodious church erected.

In 1810 the first Mortcloth for Burials was presented to the parish by Mrs Niven, Tardoes. It was her husband who gifted the first school to the parish. The number of schools in the parish at the present time is five, all under the school board of the parish, the respected chairman of which for many years was C. Howatson, Esq., of Glenbuck.

In a statistical account of the parish in the year 1775, by the Rev. John Shepherd, parish minister, we find that the manse

glebe at that time was from eight to nine acres in extent, and the original stipend 400 Pounds Scots, two chalders of meal and on of bere, about £70 on average, but this had been augmented to £80. The poor of the parish were supported by weekly collections, with interest on £130 laid out. Yearly collections were from £12 to £17. The poor were not allowed to go to other parishes, although many from neighbouring parishes were visitors here. For educational purposes there was only one parish school, with an attendance of forty scholars in winter and thirty in summer. Branches taught were Latin and English, arithmetic and book-keeping. Salary £7 15s, with free house and garden, amounting in all to about £30.

Population at that time, 1100. Horses in parish, 75 saddle and 69 draught horses; cows, 750; sheep, 1400; markets, one, in August. Number of proprietors, 11; farmers, 32; weavers, 3. The number of sheep in the parish at the present time is about 10000, with an aggregate value of £45,000; Ayrshire milk cows, 300, in value about £4,200; young cattle, 300 valued at £1,600. Sheep and cattle are noted for their hardiness and pure breeding.

Antiquities.—Brown's Stone, Lightshaw Stone, the Cairns, and the old Ironwork beside the River Ayr, near the western extremity of the parish. Very little is known concerning the history of this work. It is said to have been erected by Lord Cathcart. The workmen employed were Englishmen, and the ores used were brought from Whiteoch on the opposite side of the Ayr, the proportion of iron in which was said to be as high as 80 per cent. They used charred peat as fuel, and the iron was taken to Bonawe in Argyleshire and salt brought in exchange. It was a short-lived concern. The cost of production being too great, it was discontinued, and is now a heap of ruins, “overgrown with nettles, docks, and briars.”

THE YEAR 1811

Meal at that time was 16s to 17s per boll; beef 3d per lb.; mutton 4½d per lb.; pork 6d per lb.; lamb 5d per lb.; butter 9½d per lb; cheese 6s per stone; fowls 1s; chicks 4d; eggs 4d per dozen.

Wages.—Men servants, £8 to £12 a year; women servants, £3 to £4 a year; labourers 1s 4d per day; wrights 2s per day; tailors 1s 6d per day.

Manufactures.—Iron and coal, tar and lampblack. The iron-works were started in the year 1787, the furnaces began to blow in July. To make one ton of iron it took 2 tons 12 cwts. of ironstone, 8 tons 12 cwts. of coal, and 19¾ cwts. of lime. The iron produced was of excellent quality, soft and easily melted. All malleable iron manufactured was drawn out by Helve hammers, driven by water power. For the iron produced here there was always a good demand.

In another statistical account by the Rev. Allan Brown (another minister of the parish), he gives the population in Muirkirk and Glenbuck at 1215; in the country, 1601—total 2816. At that time a cow's grass was £3; full-grown sheep 3s 6d. Farm buildings were comfortable, but the outhouses miserable, and no fences. Produce—Total amount, £18,000.

The present Parish Church was built in the year 1812.

Sittings 1000; stipend £150; and glebe, 14 acres. There was also, then, one Meeting-house belonging to the Burghers (the U.P. Church of the present day). Families attending the Parish Church, 380; Meeting-house, 45. There was likewise an Independent Church, used throughout the week as a school and on Sabbath as a place of worship.

For education at this time there were four schools in the parish. The parish schoolmaster's salary was £80; other masters were supported by scholars. There were also two circulating libraries, with numerous members; books many and well selected.

Of Friendly Societies there were three—the Muirkirk Friendly Society begun in July, 1790; St. Thomas Mason Lodge Friendly Society started in 1800, and St. Andrew's Masonic Society in the year 1810. These were all productive of much good. Poor in Parish then, 40; also many Irish beggars. Three fairs, poorly attended; 10 alehouses, the effect of which on the morals of the people was decidedly bad.

“Coal for fuel at the same time was 2s 6d per 14 cwt. In agriculture there had been great improvements, much ground being reclaimed. Green fields were to be found where once the heather grew. Trees were also grown up, affording better shelter, but much planting might yet be done.”

The same rev. gentlemen also makes mention of some very curious petrifying springs to be found in the parish, on some of which was moss grown, two inches high, green and life-like on the top, half frozen in the middle, and stone at the bottom. One of these springs was near to the Glenbuck reservoir, and some fine specimens of this strange product have been taken away by several individuals interested in these matters.

During the last century the parish was very progressive in many things. The population has greatly increased, it being now close on 6000; while the yearly valuation of the parish is now upwards of £30,000, including railways. Industries are also more plentiful, new ones taking the place of others more obsolete. The principal products are coal, iron, ammonia, oils, etc. There has been a marked increase of outdoor exercises and amusements—bowling, cycling, football, quoiting and curling being prominent. The parish is famous for quoiting, draughts, etc.; but if there is one thing more than another in which it stands out prominently, it is in the rearing of Black-faced sheep. The “Scottish Farmer” says—“At the top of the tree stands the famous Glenbuck flock, sweeping everything before it.” At the Highland and Agricultural Show in Edinburgh last year (which was honoured by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales), C. Howatson, Esq., added another victory to his already large list. His Blackfaced ram, “Pickpocket,” being the winner of the Prince of Wales' gold medal as brood champion, besides being first in other classes. And there are other well-known breeders in the parish, amongst the number being Over Whiteoch, Garpel, Netherwood, Greenockdyke, Priesthill, and others. I have heard that at one time the black cattle were also prominent, but I can find little information regarding them. What I glean is that they seem to have been

the native breed of cattle, and that early in the seventeenth century they were crossed and re-crossed till what is now known as the Ayrshire cow was the product. But if the cattle were not black, Ayton, in his “Survey” says the sheep were black enough. He says: “With the smoke from the furnaces and coke ovens, the ground was blackened for miles around and the sheep were as black as chimney sweeps,” and today our sheep are well-known by their darkened faces.

(To be continued)

JIM McLATCHIE GOING TO AMERICA

Muirkirk's star athlete, Jim McLatchie, has won a scholarship to attend a top American college. The college is Lamar in Beaumont, Texas, and 21-year old James will study for a business degree and also train under crack athletic coaches.

We are delighted to learn of Jim's success, and we hope he will keep in touch with his activities in U.S.A. Many observers believe Jim will be the first Scotsman to run a mile in under four minutes, and if he can achieve his ambition by doing so and gain a place in the British team for the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo we will all feel very proud.

Self-trained Jim's devotion to the sport has gained him well-merited success. We hope his American trip will be of great benefit to him in business as well as in athletics.

THE LATE DOMINICK GILLEN

One of our oldest residents, Mr Dominick Gillen, 54 Main Street, passed away on 20th January at his home. He was 86 years of age. A native of Sligo, on the West coast of Eire, Mr Gillen was a veteran of the Boer War, and took part in the actions at Mafekin, Ladysmith, and Colenso. He spent most of his life in Muirkirk, where he worked in the mines until his retiral fully twenty years ago. He had a pawky wit and was well-known in our village. A keen cage bird fancier, he exhibited Border Fancy canaries and British birds successfully for a long number of years.

THE LATE MRS J. F. GORDON

The death has been announced of Mrs Gordon, widow of Mr J. F. Gordon, who was headmaster of the J.S. School for twenty-six years. Mrs Gordon will be well remembered in the village, and she was for many years closely associated with the former Wellwood Church..

KENNOX CLUB OPENED

Mr Alex. Moffat officially opened Kennox Miners Welfare Social Club at a social function at Glespin on the 25th January.

AN INTERESTING FIND

A reader, Mr Robert Beck handed in a bottle the other day which has an interesting link with old Muirkirk. The bottle, a lemonade one, was picked up in good condition amongst the moss at The Deils Back Door. It is one of the old bottles with the glass 'bull's eye' seal in the neck, and bears the name of Wm. Walker, Muirkirk. Walker, the brewer, had his business in the Manse Lane, and many of our older readers will remember the establishment.

THE STORM (February)

The worst snowstorm of the winter on Tuesday gave us a sample of the severe weather other parts of the country have been experiencing and in a comparatively short time the blizzard had dislocated the 'bus services.

The eight p.m. 'bus from Muirkirk to Strathaven got stuck in the snow near Dungavel, but the local Police managed to struggle through by car to bring the conductress home, the driver electing to stay by his vehicle all night.

The Cumnock 'buses were off for an hour or two, but we understand two got through for the last run of the evening about 10 p.m.

On the Douglas route the 'buses are off at time of writing on Wednesday afternoon, but we understand some heavy traffic is getting through and the Cumnock and Strathaven routes are also open, but the general picture over the whole country seems to be very bad.

The snowplough crews have been doing grand work—night and day—but for their efforts, and not forgetting the 'bus drivers, things might have been a lot worse.

And in the Next Issue:

Last Wednesday we described Tuesday's storm as being the worst of the winter. Before the night was out we were experiencing possibly the worst blizzard in living memory; not so much for the snowfall, perhaps, but for the intensity of the fine, driving snow which reduced visibility to nil, and even a light could hardly penetrate the white curtain.

In a comparatively short space of time drifts of snow formed to block all main roads, with the exception of the Sorn Road, which surprisingly remained passable, and conditions became chaotic. All 'bus services and even the railway service became impossible through blocks, and many workers and travellers had perforce to spend the night away from home.

By Thursday afternoon, however, the main roads were open again as the result of a good deal of hard work by the road workers, but it was Friday before the 'bus service to Lanark could be resumed, as the openings cut in the snowdrifts were hardly wide enough for the passage of the 'buses.

It was a most unpleasant experience and yet we in this district can console ourselves in the knowledge that we have fared better than many other parts of the country.

IT'S AN ILL WIND

Not so long ago we stood on the steps of the Community Centre (Ironworks Institute) and looked across at the miniature mountains of coal dross and smalls towering up in the N.C.B. stocking yard across at the old works, and in the mood of the moment, we remember wondering when, if ever, there would be a possibility of clearing such a large tonnage.

Now the wintry spell has altered the whole outlook. Indeed, but for these same "hills," some places down south would have been in dire straits. As has been freely reported, the Ayrshire coalfield has been supplying large shipments of coal for England, and Ayr harbour has also come into its own.

Amongst the cargoes which have brought welcome relief

to the stricken areas have been around twenty-thousand tons of coal from the Muirkirk stockyard! By far the largest amount of this, we understand, has come from Cairnhill Mine.

RETIRAL PRESENTATION

In March, Mr William Cluckie, engine driver, 13 Henderson Drive, retired after 45 years' service on the railways. Workmates gathered at the station to present Mr Cluckie with a wallet of notes as a token of their esteem and as a recognition of his fine record of service.

THE HEID INNS

At the Ayr District Licensing Court the licence for the Masons Arms, 170 Main Street, was transferred to Miss Isabella Lang, 25 Hareshaw Crescent, Muirkirk.

THE BEECHING PROPOSALS

The Beeching proposals to close large numbers of railway stations and services was a bit of a shocker last week, and, as feared, our district is likely to lose all its rail passenger services. Strong opposition to the recommendations is already forthcoming from many quarters.

WEMBLEY OUTING:

MUIRKIRK PARTY ROBBED IN HOTEL

A party of Muirkirk football enthusiasts, 31 in number, set off after 6 a.m. on Wednesday last for the big international football match at Wembley between England and Scotland.

With halts on the way for breakfast, lunch and high tea, London was reached at 9 p.m.

Everybody, like the many thousands of Scottish invaders, was in the best of heart and good spirits when they reached the Capital City, but the Muirkirk party got a bit of a damper on Thursday morning, when shortly after breakfast it was discovered that some culprit had been ransacking the bedrooms. The "haul" was considerable, too, consisting of no fewer than fifteen overcoats, two suits, eight electric razors, shirts, underclothing, as well as £20 in cash and a chequebook. Many of the clothes were new, too. Those of the trippers whose bedrooms were on the ground floor were fortunate in that their belongings were untouched.

With typical Scots fortitude—after the initial bitter disappointment, of course—the Muirkirkers were not long in recapturing the holiday spirit, and the remainder of the programme passed off very enjoyably indeed.

Sight-seeing, visits to friends, etc., kept everybody occupied and amused and on the day of the match a special 'bus conveyed the Muirkirk party to Wembley, where, after early misgivings when Scotland's captain and former Muirkirk Junior Eric Caldow had the misfortune to have a leg broken, Scotland's glorious victory with only ten men put the Scots fans right on top of the world.

The Muirkirk party left London at 9.10 on Sunday morning, and arrived safely home about 11.30 p.m. It was song and laughter all the way—both going and coming—and we hear that nearly all the songsters in the back of the 'bus lost their voices for a wee while after they came home

OBITUARY

MRS MORAH LOVE

Muirkirk suffered a heavy loss through the death, on 27th March, of Mrs Morah Love, J.P., County and District Councillor, who passed away at her home at 1 Middlefield Drive. She was 66 years of age.

For a long period of years Mrs Love has been a well-known and very highly respected personality in our midst, and there were few local organisations and efforts which at one time or another did not benefit from her service and enthusiasm.

A native of Dunoon, she came to Muirkirk in 1915 after her marriage to our esteemed townsman, Mr Hugh Love, and over the years she has played a big part in our community life. She was for a long period secretary of the Old Folks' Reunion Committee, and as such was well known to Muirkirkers in many parts of the Globe. With the formation of the Old Folks Welfare Association she became a leading member and was a past President and Honorary President of this organisation.

She was for long identified with the Labour and Co-operative movements. She was a Past President of the local Co-operative Women's Guild and a Past National President of the Scottish Co-operative Womens Guild, and during her term she led a Guild delegation to Russia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. She retired recently from the secretaryship of the Ayrshire Co-operative Education Committee, of which she had also been organiser. She was also a Past President Muirkirk Co-operative Education Committee, and a member of the central Council of Muirkirk Community Association.

She was a Justice of the Peace for over twenty years, and much of her best judiciary work was done in the district Juvenile Court.

She gave good service on the District Council, and five years ago she became County Councillor for our Parish. In the County Council she also served on the Education, Health, Property and Supplies, Housing, Valuation, Planning and Road Safety Committees, and she was one of the two County Council representatives on the Scottish Accident Prevention Council, a member of the Ayr Licensing Court, and a County Council representative on the County of Ayr Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association.

She was for a long time identified with the Order of the Eastern Star, and was a Past Matron of Wellwood Chapter, No. 159.

The funeral took place to Muirkirk Cemetery, where there was a large and very representative attendance of ladies and gentlemen. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. Henry Vigors, who paid a very high tribute to Mrs Love's devotion and willing service. She was a woman who had done all she could, he said, ever ready to go the extra mile for the community, the area beyond, and for the uplift of humanity.

Readers everywhere will join with us in expressing to Mr Love and Annette our deepest sympathy at this time.

MINISTER'S DEATH

The Rev. Wm. C. Connacher, a former Minister of Muirkirk E.U. Church, whose wife is a Muirkirk lady, died at Kilwinning on 25th March.

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ATHLETICS

Jim McLatchie continues with more success in America. He ran a 660 yards race in 1 min. 19.2 secs., equal to about 1 min. 49 secs. for the 880 yards. He also won a half-mile race in 1 min. 53 secs. by about 20 yards, and a two-mile event in 9 mins. 57 secs in a temperature of 87 deg. F.

Jim is the fastest American Freshman in the half-mile and one-mile with times of 1 min. 52.2 secs. and 4 mins. 10.8 secs. Good going for the young Scot who has only been there for three months.

Jim ran the fastest mile of his life when he clocked 4 mins. 7.9 secs. to record the fastest mile ever run in the State of Texas this year.. Jim managed to win the Texas federation Championship 1 mile on 1st June. The field included a 4 min. 4 sec. and a 4 min. 8 secs. miler., and Jim beat them all.

NEW COUNCILLOR

At the May meeting of Ayr County Council it was agreed to co-opt District Councillor Andrew Moreland to the County Council to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs M. Love.

NEW DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Muirkirk's newest Councillor is Mr Al. McCann, secretary of the Kames Colliery N.U.M. Branch, who was co-opted as a member of Cumnock District Council in June.

The vacancy was caused by the elevation of Councillor Andrew Moreland to the County Council following upon the death of Mrs Love, but, of course, Mr Moreland will continue to sit in the District Council by reason of his office as a County Councillor.

TRAVEL SOCIETY VISITS MUIRKIRK

Anyone who had no knowledge of what was on would no doubt stand and stare at busy Muirkirk Railway Station on Sunday, 30th June, when a well-filled train drew up and a large crowd of passengers dismounted and took many photographs of the old and colourful Highland engine and the former Caley engine which pulled the train.

It turned out that this was the Three Summit Tour of the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society, who had set off from Leeds City Station and travelled to Carstairs, thence to Auchinleck and back via Dumfries and Carlisle. The halt at Muirkirk was for the replenishment of the water supply.

Included in the large company aboard (the train was fully booked) were officers of the various railway regions, prominent railway writers, and press representatives.

BUY ADVERTISED GOODS

GARAGE FIRE

On 18th July of last week, Mr William Anderson, Hawkshaw Terrace, a motor mechanic, was severely burned when the 25-gallon diesel tank he was welding exploded and set fire to the garage of Messrs W. H. Rowe & Son, Springfield. Mr Anderson was conveyed to Ballochmyle Hospital. Four units of the Fire Service, including Muirkirk Brigade, were called to deal with the outbreak of fire, which was soon brought under control, but not before over £3000 worth of damage had been caused.

Mr James Bolton, The Kennels, New Cumnock, Mr John Grant, dalmellington, and Mr Logie Bradford, who were on the premises at the time, managed to pull Mr Anderson to safety and smothered his burning clothes. Mr Anderson's injuries were not as serious as first thought.

CONSTABULARY CHANGE

Constable Ian Erskine has been transferred from Muirkirk to Ayr County C.I.D., and his place at Muirkirk has been taken over by Constable David Conway, from Troon.

WINTER VISITORS

On several occasions recently a fox has been seen in the grounds of Muirkirk Bowling Green, as well as its footprints in the snow. No doubt its visits were encouraged by the pangs of hunger and not a thirst for sporting knowledge or a search for relatives of the tribe.

Highland Engine and Caley Engine with Travel Society Excursion at Glenbuck Dam



THE LATE MR NORMAN MCKENZIE

One of our best known and most respected inhabitants, Mr Norman McKenzie, passed away at his home at 25 Hareshaw Crescent at the age of 75 years. He had been in failing health for some time.

Over a long period of years Mr McKenzie became very well known to Muirkirk folks at home and abroad by virtue of his public service, and he devoted the best years of his life to the service of our community.

A miner by calling, he was interested in the Kames Miners Union Branch and became its Chairman, a post he held for a goodly number of years. Subsequently he was a member of Muirkirk Parish Council, and later the District Council; and the local Labour Party, the Old Folks Committee, and the Nursing Association, as well as many other local efforts, all had his whole-hearted service in official and private capacities.

In the Co-operative movement he also showed the keenest interest, and for 26 years he served on the Board of Management of Muirkirk Co-operative Society, becoming President of the Society, and occupying the chair for a number of years before he retired for health reasons in January, 1956.

He was also a Past President of Muirkirk Bowling Club.

Norman McKenzie was a modest and kindly man who had the interests of the community and his fellow man very close to his heart, and it can be said that he gave of his time and effort unsparingly and to the best of his ability.

Over the years Mr McKenzie has had a staunch helpmate in his good lady (Marion Gebbie) and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her and the family at this time.

THE LATE MR J. CLEMENT

Mr James Clement, Irondale Cottage, Muirkirk, died on 5th August. Of a quiet and kindly disposition, Mr Clement, who for many years carried on the business of coal merchant and contractor, was known over a wide area, and his calm reasoning and integrity won for him the friendship and respect of all who knew him. He was always a great "kirk man," and he was also a good friend of the Muirkirk Branch of the British Legion, of which he was an Honorary Vice-President.

The funeral took place on 7th August, when the Rev. J. P. Tierney, M.A., officiated. After a brief service in the house attended by the family and close friends, the cortege proceeded to the Parish Church for a public service. The coffin was carried to and from the Church by three representatives of the Kirk Session and by three of Mr Clement's employees. Whilst the coffin was borne down the aisle the first of the three favourite hymns requested was played, and the service included the other two. The Church was well filled by family and friends, members of the Kirk Session and many business associates.

During the service Mr Tierney made reference to Mr Clement in the following terms: "Today we mourn the passing of the Senior Elder of this Church. It was in 1932 that James Clement was ordained to the eldership of the Church, and it was almost at the beginning of my ministry here that he became our Senior Elder. By his quiet and unassuming manner

he had won for himself a place in the respect and affection not only of this community, but far beyond it. We knew him to be a man of his word. Such was his daily way of life that herein he worthily witnessed to the Lord whom he loved and joyed to serve. Not much given to talking, yet by his faithful daily deeds, which spoke so much louder than words he set forth his faith in such an attractive way that all who knew him realise that we have lost one who indeed was a Christian gentleman"

THE LATE MR JAMES MURDOCH

The community is also much the poorer through the passing on 7th August of Mr James Murdoch, 18 Wellwood Avenue.

Mr Murdoch, who had been Janitor of Muirkirk Secondary School for a goodly number of years, and been visiting Ayr when he took suddenly ill. He was conveyed to Ayr County Hospital and then transferred to Ballochmyle Hospital, where he passed away.

Mr Murdoch was a man who gave a good deal of service to Muirkirk in a variety of ways. As a young railwayman he took an early interest in ambulance work and was attached to the Railway Ambulance Section, for which over a number of years he carried out the duties of organiser and secretary with enthusiasm and devotion. At the annual social in February last he was presented with his 35th Year Certificate—a fine record.

A keen co-operator, he was a member of Muirkirk Co-operative Society Board of Management and one of its longest-serving committeemen. He was also secretary for some years of the annual gala sponsored by the Society.

He had been Chairman of the local Labour Party, a member of the Old Folks Committee, and in many other ways he lent a willing hand in numerous local efforts.

At the School he also took a keen interest in the football team, and for some years managed it with a good measure of success.

Mr Murdoch was also an Elder of Muirkirk Parish Church.

His death at the age of 61 years came as a great shock to a wide circle of friends, by whom he was held in the highest respect.

THE LATE MR WILLIAM MUIR

Mr William Muir, a native of Glenbuck, who died at Watford on 17th August, was the last surviving member of the family of the late William and Maidie Muir, Glenbuck, whom some of the older generation will remember.

As a young man Mr Muir worked in the mines at Glenbuck. During the First World War he volunteered and with some other Muirkirk men went to the Royal Army Medical Corps and served in a hospital in the South of England, then going to France where he served as a Warrant Officer till the end of the war. He came back to Glenbuck, but moved to Sanquhar before going south to Watford in 1928.

He is survived by his wife, who has a Douglas and Motherwell connection. The couple celebrated their golden wedding a few years ago.

Friends in this district will join with us in expressing our sympathy to Mrs Muir at this time.

FLOODING

An exceptionally heavy rainstorm at Glenbuck in late August caused heavy flooding and a good deal of damage. Nobody in the village had ever seen rain like it before, and during the downpour visibility was reduced to zero. Rain water rushed down the hills, and at Grasshill Mine water pipes were unable to cope and the flood waters spread rapidly. At Spireslack hay was washed away and the water on the roadway was three feet deep. Outside the home of Mr Marshall, Hillside Nurseries, the rush of water washed out the kerbstones, and all the pavement was torn up. The water got into the dwelling houses and reached right into a wardrobe. At the skeleton bridge near Airdsgreen farm the roadway was flooded to a depth of three feet, and six cars were stuck for an hour. The downpour took place between 4 and 6 .30 p.m.

JANITOR APPOINTED

Mr John H. Mitchell, 81 Henderson Drive, has been appointed janitor of Muirkirk Secondary School in succession to the late Mr James Murdoch. Ian, of course, has been employed at the School Kitchen for some time past. There were no fewer than 38 applications for the janitorship.

PASSING OF OLD FRIENDS

Time inevitably brings changes, and last week we noted with regret the passing of two old Muirkirk Friends. We refer to Mr James Gibson, who died suddenly at Fraserburgh, and Mr Hugh McSkimming, Mauchline, who died at Ayrshire central Hospital at Irvine. We remember both as ardent supporters of junior football in Muirkirk, and Jimmy Gibson was at one time secretary of the old Muirkirk Athletic. He was also a member of Muirkirk Amateur Minstrels of happy memory. Hugh McSkimming was a staunch and lifelong supporter, and over the years he was a constant attender at Ladeside and also at Muirkirk's away games.

CLEARING UP AFTER THE FLOOD AT GLENBUCK
(Dickie Bain)



SUDDEN DEATH

The sad news reached Muirkirk on 14th October of the sudden death, early that morning, of a well-known local man, Mr Robert Masterton, proprietor of the Empire Bar, Glasgow Road. Mr Masterton had been spending the weekend in Ireland with three local friends, and they had attended the international football match at Belfast on Saturday. They were making their headquarters in a Larne Hotel, and when Mr Masterton did not appear for breakfast on Monday morning, a visit to his bedroom brought the sad discovery that he had passed away a few hours earlier in his sleep. Death was due to coronary thrombosis. Although he had been a shade off colour last week, nothing was thought of it, and in fact Mr Masterton motored his friends to Stranraer to catch the Irish boat. Of a quiet disposition, Robert, who was 52 years of age and a bachelor, was well known in our community and throughout the district, and will be missed by a wide circle of friends.

LICENSING COURT

At Ayr District Licensing Court the licence for the Empire Bar, Glasgow Road, formerly held by the late Mr Robert Masterton, was transferred to Mr James Masterton; and the licence for Wallaces Bar, Main Street, formerly held by Mrs Wallace, was transferred to Mr George Wallace.

An application had been received for a provisional grant for premises at 40 Smallburn, but the applicant failed to appear and the application was not proceeded with.

PRESENTATION

Muirkirk man, Mr Robert S. Gilfillan, now living in Kirkcaldy, was the recipient of a presentation to mark his retirement after 27 years as Janitor of Denend School in Fife.

For the benefit of our readers we may add Mr Gilfillan's parents were Alex. Gilfillan of Kirkgreen and Robina Stitt of Torhill.

SUDDEN DEATHS

Two sudden deaths occurred in the district in December. At 8 a.m. on the 10th Ben Murray, a 20-year-old shepherd who resided with his parents at Middlefield, was found dead in bed. Ben had had a medical condition since the age of 13, and had attended hospital periodically, but he had been working away as usual.

Then the following day, a well-known Muirkirk residenter, Mrs Agnes Jardine Whyte Irvine, 84 years of age, 19 Wellwood Avenue, died suddenly in the Muirkirk Ward at Ayr County Hospital. She had been admitted to hospital two days previously as the result of a fall in her home. Mrs Irvine was a daughter of the late Mr John Whyte, one of our well-known local poets of former years.

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1/8 per £ on Purchases

A SCOTTISH FOLKSONG

What shall I give you? Shall I put you off with some "auld wife's tale," or with the lilt of an "auld Scot's sang?" Perhaps with both; for there is in my ear just now the haunting tune of a sweet old song that has behind it the strange story of an Ishmaelitic woman.

Coming up through the crowded Gorbals this afternoon I heard it on the lips of a street singer:

Ca' the ewes tae the knowes,
Ca' them where the heather grows,
Ca' them where the burnie rows,
My bonnie dearie.

The mockery of it! and the pathos and the tragedy of it! The sordid, reeking thoroughfares, the thronging tumultuous mob; the wide open drink-shop door, and on its threshold this woman with the tattered shawl, and the bleared face, and the broken, quivering voice; and on her lips the song of the solitudes and the moorlands, and of love stronger than death.

While waters wimple to the sea,
While day blinks in the lift sae hie,
Till clay cauld death shall blin' my e'e,
Ye shall be my dearie.

Heard ye ever anything simpler, sweeter and truer than that? There is a singing cadence in the very words. The very essence of melody. They seem to sing themselves. And can you guess what kind of a woman wrote that song—for it is a woman's song? Can you guess that it was a woman akin in fortune to her whom I heard ranting it this afternoon on Glasgow streets? Yet it was even so. This tender lyric came from the heart of one who was an outcast and a wastred from before the day of her birth, and all through her life; one upon whom Nature itself had set the seal of outlawry; a woman deformed in body and rebellious and cankered in spirit, and whose life was one long scornful defiant laugh at the conventional narrow world in which her fate was cast; a world at once wide and free as the moorland winds, and narrow and crabbed as the creed of Calvin. Wild Tibbie Pagan of Muirkirk. She lived her life in the century before last, and she rests quietly this long time in the Auld Kirkyard of Muirkirk. And even on her tombstone they were fain to make apology for her, these douce and decorous rural contemporaries at whose "evengaun" virtues she mocked and railed.

Interred here a votaress of mirth,
Congenial mingling with her parent earth,
Forgotten lies; whose wild, eccentric life
Seemed vice and virtue in perpetual strife.
But cease, ye mild to blame, ye prudes to sneer,
Nought worthy praise or blame inhabits here;
'Tis only dust, the immortal part is gone
To meet its just reward in some fair world unknown.
"A votaress of mirth!
'Vice and virtues in perpetual strife."

Ay! but the woman of whom these words were written does not "forgotten lie." While the Scottish heart responds to melody, while the Scottish tongue lives, so long will live Isobel Pagan.

For this is a folk song. It is the kind of song that mithers croon to the bairns in their cradles, and it gets into the very fibre of them, and the very echoes of it in a street minstrel's voice awakens old memories and the vision of a day that is gone. Guid wives hum it as they go about their household duties, and forget their daily "cark and care," and shepherd lads whistle it as they watch their flocks, and peasant lassies keep tryst to its tune in the gloamin.

As I gaed doon the water side
There I met my shepherd lad,
He rowed me sweetly in his plaid,
And ca'ed me his dearie.

It is a folk song. A song of the common folk. Of a life that has not entirely passed away and may yet come back again. Perchance, when we shall have thrown off the nightmare of commercialism, when we shall have escaped from the mechanical Bedlam which enmeshes us, we shall one day re-enter the old pastoral world to the tune of Tibbie Pagan's song, and

Ca' the yowes tae the knowes,
Ca' them where the heather grows,
Ca' them where the burnie rows,
My bonnie dearie.

And who was Tibbie Pagan? Who can tell? I have told you all that I know: all that anybody knows. There is no written history of her. She lives in this song and in another love-breathing pastoral, "The Crook and the Plaid," and in the traditions of an Ayrshire countryside. The bye-law perchance of some roystering Ayrshire laird. "Little is known of her early life. Taken care of by an old woman, who taught her to read, and she improved herself in her spare hours," so says one local chronicler who himself has gathered his information merely from transmitted gossip. A woman cursed from the beginning. Look at this portrait of her: "Her appearance was unprepossessing. She was lame, had a squint, and a large tumour on her side." A woman formed not to be loved. Yet she sang a song of love as if Cupid himself had been her boon companion.

Ye shall get gowns and ribbons meet,
Caul leather shoon for thy white feet,
And in my airms ye's lie and sleep,
And ye shall be my dearie.

The 'gowns and ribbons meet' were not for Tibbie Pagan, and she hirpled through four score years of life, more feared than loved by her decent but unimaginative neighbours.

For with the gift of rhyme she had also the gift of sarcasm, of which she made a shield and buckler against all who dared to mock her physical infirmities, or who ventured to upbraid her moral delinquencies. For she was no saint, Tibbie Pagan. In her crooked body there dwelt a merrry heart and a rebel soul, and she lampooned her enemies in satirical ballads and carried her shafts of wit from door to door. A queer offshoot

this of the race of troubadours. Had she lived a century earlier theyd have burned her for a witch. Had she lived in Paris at the right period of history she would have queened it over some literary salon. As it was, she held a kind of court of her own right there in the Ayrshire moors, in that curious dwelling of hers, made out of the end of an old brick kiln, by the side of the Garpel Water. If she was not bonnie to look upon, she had wit and humour and a certain del-may-carishness, and she sang like a lark; and all the wits and lags and roystering blades; all the rattling, roaring Willies of the country round came with their fiddles and their pipes and their gill stoups and their rough songs and their rougher humours, and held high revel night after night for many a long year in the sheiling of Tibbie Pagan. The memories of these wild nights hover about the hillside to this day and the bridge that spans the Garpel Water is "Tibbie Pagan's Brig." But these memories, too, will die: the traditions will fade away: the stories about Tibbie Pagan will be forgotton, and the old brig will crumble and fall, and when all this has come to pass, Tibbies song will still live and Scottish mothers in the hills and glens will still be singing to the bairns:

Ca' the yowes tae the knowes,
Ca' them where the heather grows,
Ca' them where the burnie rows,
My bonnie dearie.

The foregoing is taken from a book, 'Selections from the Writings of William Stewart (Gavroche).' For over 25 years Willie, who died in 1947 at the age of 91 years, was secretary and organiser of the Independent Labour Party in Scotland, and a remarkable man in many aspects.

In asking us to produce this chapter, a reader suggests that it might be instrumental in saving Tibbie-s Brig—now in a very bad state.

Any suggestions?

THE BIRD SHOW

The annual exhibition of Muirkirk Ornithological Society was held in the Community centre (Ironworks Institute) in December, and attracted a large entry from a wide area.

The principal prize-winners were:—
Poultry and Bantams—
Best Bird—R. Campbell & Son, New Cumnock.
Best Large Poultry—R. Guthrie, Kilmarnock.
Best Bantam—R. Campbell & Son.
Best Opposite Sex Bantam—George Templeton, Auchinleck.
BOS Variety Bantam—A. Lyon, Symington.
Best Game & BOS—George Templeton.
Best Local Large Bantam—James McGarva & Son.
Best Local Bantam—John Hazle.
Best Variety Pigeon—Hugh Thomson, Kilmarnock.
BOS and Best Local Variety Pigeon—John Taylor.
Best Racing Pigeon and Best Local—S. Davidson. & Son.
Best Opposite Sex—Ross & Son, Douglas West.

PRESENTATION TO MR WILLIAM McCALL

Mr William McCall, a Muirkirk man well known to older readers, and who has just retired from health reasons after fifty years of service in the mining industry, and his good lady (Matt. Fleming, and also a Muirkirker), were the guests of honour at a social evening and presentation to mark the occasion in the Masons Arms Hotel on 16th August.

As a lad of 14, Willie McCall commenced work in 1913 helping his father at the coal face at Kames and was a mining student under the well-loved Bob Steven. He was an oversman at Kames before going to Lanarkshire as an under-manager in 1929, and in this capacity served at Bellshill and Uddingston till 1934. He then spent 16 years as under-manager at Dalkeith Colliery before going north to Brora, where he was manager and director for seven years. During his term there, Brora Colliery won the "News of the World" silver cup and a cheque for 200 guineas for the highest output in the small collieries class for the whole of Great Britain in the year 1951.

As a young man Willie was a keen and strong footballer, and was a member of the highly successful Muirkirk Battlefield juvenile team before playing junior with both the well-known Glenbuck Cherrypickers and Muirkirk Athletic.

FOOTBALL (Season 1962—63)

Surely this must rank as one of Muirkirk Juniors worst ever seasons. They were knocked out in the first round of every competition. Even with a home draw in the Scottish Cup they could only draw 1—1 against Dundee Osborne. The team was:—Delaney; N. Scott, Gray; Currie, Connell, Rooney; Harper, Park, Peebles, T. Scott, Grant. Muirkirk lost the replay 2—1.

The severe weather that winter played havoc with the fixtures and in the 13 weeks from 22nd December Muirkirk never played a game because of the conditions—surely their longest spell without defeat for some time! The local supporters were certainly down in the dumps.

The big news in the local football scene that season was concerned with the transfer of Muirkirk's former schoolboy internationalist, Jim McMorran, from Aston Villa to Third Lanark. The transfer fee involved was £10,000

LAST GAS LIGHT IN MUIRKIRK

(Willie Baird at Kateshall)



LOCAL STATISTICS — 1963**BIRTHS**

KIRKWOOD.—At Kilmarnock on 15th April to Mr and Mrs Tom Kirkwood; a son.
 McCALL.—In Sudbury, Ontario, on 9th May, to Mr and Mrs Alex. McCall; a daughter.
 HODGE.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Hodge (Ellen Neal) on 21st August; a daughter.
 McMORRAN.—To Mr and Mrs John McMorran on 25th October; a daughter.
 GIRVAN.—To Mr and Mrs Allan Girvan (Annie Mitchell) on 9th December; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

CATHERINE STITT to JOHN REID on 23rd February.
 JOHN HOUSTON to ELIZ. McCULLOCH on 9th March.
 GEO. BRADFORD to EVELYN ROBERTSON on Mar. 16.
 HENRY FORGE to ELIZABETH LOGIE on 16th March.
 ROY RUTHERFORD to JANET FINLAY on 16th March.
 LUDOVIC SUMMERS to AGNES MURRAY on 8th March.
 JAMES HYSLOP to MARG. MATTHEWS on 22nd March.
 ISABEL BLYTH to DAVID SHIPP on 23rd March.
 JAMES HIGGINS to ELIZABETH MACKIN on 15th June.
 IAN MUNCIE to MARGARET KIRKWOOD on 29th June.
 JOHN SLOAN to HELEN SAMSON on 22nd June.
 JOHN LOWE to JOSEPHINE MILLAR on 6th July
 JOHN PATON to NAN SHAW on 13th July.
 SAMUEL GALLOWAY to MARY EASTON on 5th Oct.
 ROBERT PURDIE to ELIZ. GOODYEAR on 5th October.
 JOHN TURNBULL to ISOBEL THOM on 27th September.
 DAVID WEIR to MAE GIBB on 5th October.
 ROBERT WARD to MARY STEWART on 12th October.
 ANDREW THOMAS to ANNE LENNOX on 19th October.
 WILLIAM McFEGAN to ISABEL GAW on 28th December.

DEATHS

KIRKWOOD.—At Law Hospital on 3rd January, Robert Kirkwood, 20 Wellwood Avenue; aged 54 years.
 RENNIE.—At Ballochmyle on 1st January, Janet Blair, 49 Glasgow Road; aged 75 years.
 MURRAY.—At 30 Wellwood Avenue on 14th January, Henry Murray, aged 60 years.
 SHORT.—At Ballochmyle on 12th January, Agnes Clark, 40 Colthart Drive; aged 76 years.
 GILLEN.—At 54 Main Street on 20th January, Dominick Gillen, aged 86 years.
 HERON.—At 3 Meanlour Drive on 19th January, Daniel Heron; aged 59 years.
 MORLEY.—At Heathfield, Ayr, on 18th January, Edwin (Ted) Morley.
 BALLANTYNE.—At 26 Dixton Avenue, Logan, John Ballantyne; 66 years.
 GIRDWOOD.—At 10 Burns Avenue on 25th January, Helen McCall; aged 72 years.

KIRKWOOD.—At 13 Burns Avenue on 25th January, Jane Workman McKay; aged 83 years.
 DEVLIN.—At Western Infirmary on 4th February, Janet Cowan; aged 35 years.
 MORELAND.—At 7 Smallburn Drive on 31st January, Owen J. G. Moreland; aged 56 years.
 WILLIAMSON.—A 1 Caldwell Avenue, Glasgow, on 2nd February, James Williamson; aged 75 years.
 GRAY.—At Ashbank Cottage, Smallburn, on 20th February, Alexandrina Robertson; aged 69 years.
 McCALL.—At Ayr on 15th February, Robert Gibson McCall.
 GRAY.—At Glenafton on 28th February, James Gray, Ashbank Cottage, aged 85 years.
 LOCHHEAD.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd March, Elspeth Knox, 18 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 74 years.
 LOGIE.—At Holmhead Hospital on 1st March, Ethel Dorman, 30 Meanlour Drive; aged 78 Years.
 MILLAR.—At Edinburgh on 2nd March, George Millar (late of Muirkirk).
 RAMAGE.—At Park Cottage 42 Glasgow Road, on 4th March, James Ramage; aged 84 Years.
 SAMSON.—At 29 Hareshaw Crescent on 2nd March, William Samson; aged 4 years.
 HUHTALA.—In U.S.A. on 11th March, Hans Huhtala (Husband of Sadie Millar).
 KELLY.—At Irvine on 7th March, Thomas Kelly, aged 4½ months; 15 Henderson Drive.
 LESLIE.—At Ballochmyle on 9th March, James Leslie, 41 Stoneyhill Avenue; aged 81 years.
 SAMSON.—At 27 Hawkshaw Terrace on 8th March, William Samson; aged 74 years.
 ANGUS.—At 28 Middlefield Drive on 16th March, James Angus; aged 75 years.
 ROBB.—At 28 Hawkshaw Terrace on 20th June, David Robb; aged 81 years.
 MILLER.—At Ayr on 30th June, John Miller, 58 Pagan Walk; aged 66 years.
 RATTRAY.—At Heathfield on 1st July, John Rattray, 26 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 48 years.
 HANNAH.—At 20 Hareshaw Crescent on 16th July, Grace Bradford; aged 71 Years.
 McKENZIE.—At 25 Hareshaw Crescent, on 23rd July, Norman McKenzie; aged 75 years.
 BELL.—At 58 Hareshaw Crescent on 13th March, Walter Bell; aged 62 years.
 JOHNSTONE.—At 36 Meanlour Drive on 25th March, Elizabeth Stein; aged 84 years.
 LOVE.—At 1 Middlefield Drive on 25th March, Morah Love; aged 66 years.
 STITT.—At Muirkirk on 25th March, Robert Stitt, of 92 Pagan Walk; aged 54 years.
 STODDART.—At 31 Shawknowe Avenue on 24th March, Jessie Stoddart; aged 61 years.

BLANE.—At 66 Henderson Drive on 30th March, Margaret Blane; aged 62 years.

BRADFORD.—At Ballochmyle on 4th April, George Bradford, 1 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 48 years.

PARK.—At 32 Wellwood Ave. on April 6, Jas Park; aged 59

SAMSON.—At Irvine on 3rd April, Mary Stewart, 125 Henderson Drive; aged 73 years.

BAIRD.—At Holmhead on 21st April, Barbara Baird.

ROBB.—At 42 Harwood Avenue on 20th April, Mary Caldwell; aged 65 years.

ROSS.—At Ballochmyle on 27th April, Thomas Ross, 3 Meallour Drive; aged 84 years.

CURRIE.—In New York on 28th April, George Currie, late of Smallburn.

HILL.—At 3 Wellwood Ave. on 9th May, John Hill; aged 60

WALKER.—At 10 Harwood Avenue on 17th May, William Walker, aged 72 years.

DOCHERTY.—At Aird's Mill on 27th May, Annie McCartney; aged 72 years.

DUNSMORE.—In Melbourne on 22nd May, Daisy Neil (wife of Joe Dunsmore).

EASTON.—At Heathfield on 24th May, Robert Easton, late of Bankhead.

BRADFORD.—At Ballochmyle on 1st June, Margaret Logie, 39 Wardlaw Avenue; aged 69 years.

FLEMING.—At Forth on 31st May, Mina Douglas, late of Muirkirk; aged 78 years.

DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle on 25th June, George Davidson, 11 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 48 years.

BONE.—At Ballochmyle on 30th July, Lillie Vauden, 14 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 85 years.

MULLEN.—At 45 Garronhill on 30th July, Mary Mullen.

ANDERSON.—At Stewarton on 31st July, Thomas Anderson, 28 Harwood Avenue; aged 63 years.

MURDOCH.—At Ballochmyle on 9th August, James Murdoch, 18 Wellwood Avenue; aged 61 years.

MUIR.—At a hospital on 17th August, Bessie Davidson, late of Glenbuck and Sanquhar; aged 79 years.

McSKIMMING.—At Irvine on 23rd August, Margaret McCall, aged 70 Years.

DE MASCIO.—At Ballochmyle on 8th September, Catherine Higgins, 18 Carruthers Park; aged 81 years.

KIRKLAND.—At Birmingham on 3rd September, Barbara Caldwell (late of Glenbuck); aged 75 years.

McDONALD.—At Leamington Spa on 4th September, Susan Graham, late of Muirkirk; aged 60 years.

BOLAND.—At 5 Pagan Walk on 23rd September, Michael Boland; aged 69 years.

HALLIDAY.—At Newcastle on 8th October, Frances Waddell.

MASTERTON.—In Northern Ireland on 14th October, Robert Masterton, 7 Glasgow Road; aged 52 years.

GRANT.—At Ayr on 24th October, Margaret Anderson, 54 Smallburn; aged 59 years.

BELL.—At Ballochmyle on 5th November, Helen Renwick, 12 Stitt Place; aged 62 years.

GIBSON.—In Fraserburgh on 27th October, James Gibson; aged 76 years.

McSKIMMING.—At Irvine on 2nd November, Hugh McSkimming (late of Muirkirk); aged 75 years.

DAVIDSON.—At Townhead Farm on 19th November, William Davidson; aged 79 years.

BLYTHE—JAMES.—In U.S.A. on 14th November, husband of the late Isabella Murray. Born Oct 1, 1878, in Muirkirk.

CAMPBELL.—In U.S.A., George Campbell (husband of Minnie Campbell, late of Muirkirk), and brother of James Campbell, Riggend, Muirkirk; aged 73 years.

NEILSON.—At 86 Main Street, Ochiltree, on 23rd November, William Neilson.

DODDS.—At Ballochmyle on 27th November, Elizabeth Lynn 8 Wellwood Avenue; aged 61 years.

IRVINE.—At Ayr on 4th December, Agnes Whyte, 19 Wellwood Avenue; aged 85 years.

SMITH.—At 34 Hawkshaw Terrace on 25th December, William Smith, aged 67 years (of 26 Harwood Avenue).

British Railways—Scottish Region

TRANSPORT ACT, 1962

WITHDRAWAL OF

RAILWAY

PASSENGER SERVICES

The British Railways Board hereby give notice, in accordance with Section 56 (7) of the Transport Act, 1962, that on and from 2nd MARCH, 1964 they propose to discontinue all railway passenger train services

between

LANARK and MUIRKIRK

and to withdraw all Passenger Services from the following Stations:—

SANDILANDS, PONFEIGH, HAPPENDON, DOUGLAS WEST, INCHES, MUIRKIRK

It appears to the Board that the following Alternative Services will be available:—

BY ROAD—

Central SMT Co., Ltd.

Service—

No. 30 (Table 2)—Strathaven—Muirkirk—Shotts, via Inches, Douglas and Lanark.

No. 34 (Table 2)—Glespin—Lanark—Forth, via Douglas.

No. 36 (Table 2)—Glespin—Lanark—Shotts, via Douglas and Forth.

No. 39 (Table 2)—Strathaven—Muirkirk—West Calder, via Inches, Douglas and Lanark.

No. 35 (Table 34)—Douglas West — Lesmahagow, via Coalburn.

Messrs Wm. Stokes & Sons, Carstairs.

Lanark—Coalburn, via Sandilands Road, Ponfeigh (Douglas Water.)

CHAPTER FIFTY-SIX

(1964)

THE LATE MR JOHN COLTHART, J.P.



We learned with regret of the sudden passing on 20th February of a valued old friend, Mr John Colthart, J.P., at his home at 25 Linkfield Road, Musselburgh.

Mr Colthart was in his 81st year, and while he had been in failing health for the past two or three years, the keen mental faculties which had distinguished him throughout his long and notable career were apparent to the last.

One of Muirkirk's leading personalities for many years, Mr Colthart had a very close association with local government in Ayrshire, and served our district as Parish Councillor, District Councillor, and County Councillor, being for almost twenty years our representative on the County Council, where he was leader of the Labour Group.

A practical miner himself, Mr Colthart was an active union official, and was local miners' agent and at one time joint county agent.

An ex-Vice President of the Scottish Miners' Union, he was one of the first trade unionists to receive an appointment with the National Coal Board when that body was formed in 1947. A year later he became Deputy Labour Director (Labour Relations) for Scotland, and he held this post till his retirement just over nine years ago.

The funeral service was held at Seafeld Crematorium, Edinburgh.

Our picture was taken in Mr Colthart's County Council days, and we remember his help and counsel on many occasions with gratitude and affection.

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN FARMER

A well-known farmer in our district for many years, Mr John H. Foster, of Kames Farm, died at Ballochmyle Hospital on 27th August. He farmed at Kames for many years, and he was a member of the Foster family who previously farmed at Greenockmains. He is survived by three married sons, all farming in our district

RETIRAL OF MR JAMES GIRDWOOD

Mr James Girdwood, a well-known Muirkirk man, has just retired from railway service at the age limit of 65 years after 50¾ years' service.

He received a gold watch for 45 years' service in 1959 and was presented with his long-term certificate on his retirement. The staff at Glasgow presented him with a Hoover fan heater, with a handbag for Mrs Girdwood. From St. Andrews' Ambulance Association he was presented with a Gold Plaque for 50 years' efficient service, 1914-1964; having already received a Silver Plaque for 42 years' service, 1914-1956.

In the ambulance movement, in addition to the above, Mr Girdwood holds the G. & S. W. Directors' Gold Medal, Scottish railways Silver Medal, and L.M.S. 15 years' Long Service Gold Medal and six Gold Bars; The King's Voluntary Medal and six clasps; and as a special tribute for his 45 years' British Railways presented him with a barometer.

Mr Girdwood's first year's First Aid Certificate and his second year Medallion, gained at the old Muirkirk Railway Ambulance Class, was the foundation of all that followed, and it will be readily seen that First Aid was one of his principal hobbies.

Horticulture was another of Mr Girdwood's past-times, and in this field he won three Dobbie's (of Edinburgh) silver medals and Ryder's (of St. Albans) gold medal in both flowers and vegetables, as well as several diplomas.

During the war he lectured on vegetable cultivation to numerous associations in Glasgow and Lanarkshire, where he also trained A.R.P. and Home Guard units in all aspects of First Aid.

Mr Girdwood finished his railway service as Agent for Accounts for over 100 stations, controlling approximately 15,000 accounts each four weeks, with a revenue of millions of pounds per annum.

It was a coincidence that he finished his working career in the room where as a lad of 14 years he was interviewed by the then Telegraph Superintendent for his first appointment as telegraph clerk at Muirkirk.

Mr Girdwood had various positions at Muirkirk, Darvel, Newmilns, St. Enoch, Ayr, Bogside, Gables, Saltcoats, and Kilmarnock. He was appointed to the permanent staff at St. Enoch in 1926 and became Senior Accounts Clerk. After further service at Greenock, Glasgow, etc., and attending various specialist courses, he was in 1957 promoted Agent for Accounts at Glasgow, with a staff of almost 200.

SPORTS CHAMPIONS

This year the School Sports Championship resulted:—
BOYS—1st Ian Archibald, 2nd J. Dodds.
GIRLS—1st Wilma Dunlop, Janetta Samson.

DUX OF SCHOOL

The Dux Prize at Muirkirk Secondary School was won by Helen W. Aitken

WITHDRAWAL OF PASSENGER SERVICES BETWEEN LANARK AND MUIRKIRK

British Railways (Scotland) announced on 5th August that the Minister of Transport has given his consent to the withdrawal of the railway passenger services between Lanark and Muirkirk

This involves the closure of Sandilands, Ponfeigh, Happendon, Douglas West, Inches, and Muirkirk stations

The closing dates will be announced later.

AYRSHIRE WILLS

In a list of Ayrshire Estates just published, appears that of Mr James Clement, Coal Merchant and Contractor, Irondale Cottage, Muirkirk, who left £14,653.

BOWLING

MUIRKIRK LADIES WIN CUP

Having been successful in the Area Final at Drongan some time ago, the Muirkirk Ladies rink, comprising Mrs Hadden, Mrs Dunlop, Mrs Rollett, and Mrs Thomson (skip); competed in the final of the CISWO ladies' competition at Larkhall on Saturday last when, for the second time, they won the handsome silver cup.

Having beat High Valleyfield by three shots in the semi-final, Bridgeness-Carriden in the last leg and won by a single shot, after playing an extra end.

This was a fine achievement by the local ladies, and each member of the rink was presented with a handsome canteen of cutlery. The triumphant rink received a warm reception when they returned to the Clubhouse at Muirkirk on Saturday night with the cup.

It is noteworthy that three of the ladies are old age pensioners, but they outstayed their much younger rivals. We add our heartiest congratulations on their success



PRESENTATION

Officials of the National Coal Board recently visited Mr T. Bickerton at his home at Hawkshaw Terrace and presented him with a framed certificate in recognition of 51 years' service in the industry. Officials of the Old Folks' Welfare Committee also visited Mr Bickerton at his home and presented him with a handsome gas cigarette lighter, suitably inscribed, in recognition of the good work done by Mr Bickerton in connection with the welfare.

SHOW SUCCESS

Muirkirk Bantam fanciers were well to the fore at the Scottish dairy Show held in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, and one of their number, Mr John Hazle, Smallburn, had the distinction of winning the supreme award for the Best Bird in the Show.

Mr Hazle had a really outstanding day with his Black Wyandottes, winning two first prizes and a second, the Duncan McColl Silver Trophy for Best Bird in Show, Silver Award for Best Bantam, two £1 Specials for Best Bantam, and Rosette for Best Black Wyandottes, as well as three other specials. Mr Hazle entered only three birds in two classes, so this was surely the achievement of a lifetime. Our heartiest congratulations, John!

DRILL HALL SOLD

We learn that the Territorial Association have disposed of the Drill Hall to Mr Blackwell, Ayr, whose business, we understand, is connected with radio and T.V.

SCOUT HALL

The old betting shop at 13½ Main Street, formerly managed by Mr Andrew Boland, has been taken over for troop meetings and activities by Muirkirk Boy Scouts. Mr Boland mentioned to the lads that in September, 1962, he had lost a postal order for £4 on the premises, and sure enough, when the boys were cleaning out their new headquarters the discovered the missing P.O., which they returned to Mr Boland the other day!

THE MARCH OF PROGRESS

Muirkirk Co-operative Society have just completed (April) another stage in their programme of modernisation and improvement of their premises. The office, formerly in the Main Street North Side premises, has been transferred to the Main Street South Side block, and all concerned are to be congratulated on a really wonderful transformation, indeed, it is doubtful if any Society of comparable size is so well equipped. The former dwelling houses and tailoring department of other days have been re-modelled into a beautiful suite of offices, and the outside stair has also been rebuilt for easier negotiation. In the outer office the counter layout, with partitions for individual attention, ensures adequate privacy for members' transactions, and there are separate offices for the managing secretary, the cashier, and the check staff. At the east of the suite there is a commodious boardroom, with a small kitchenette adjoining. Adequate toilet facilities are included. The equipment is laid out with an obvious view to efficiency and service, and should prove a great asset to the Society.

KAMES COLLIERY DRAW

The £830 prize won by Kames Colliery in the N.C.B. National Improvement Competition for 1963 was allocated at a draw held in the Community centre on 29th February. The draw was made by Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P. The result was as follows:—

First Prize—£250—William Farrell

Second Prize—£100—Thomas Barrie

Third Prize—£80—Frank Hughes

10 Prizes of £20 Each:

James Murphy	Robert Gray	John Hillditch
James Moran	James Park	Dan Dunsmore
James Strickland	Wm. Kirkwood	Campbell Taylor
James Crawford		

20 Prizes of £10 Each:

Andrew Walker	Reginald McLeod	John McIntosh
Thomas Palmer	Thomas Lennox	William Fulton
Thomas Frew	William Eaton	Thomas Mackin
F. Lochhead	James Short	David Park
James Murphy	John McKie	Michael McCabe
James Park	John Davidson	John Hillditch
John Davidson	Alex. Grant	William Hannah
Alex. Rattray.		

Consolation Prizes—Books gifted by Mr Emrys Hughes:

Thomas Mitchell	James Park	John Davidson
David Leslie	James Samson	William Hannah

AMBULANCE COMPETITION**MUIRKIRK WIN THE WALKER CUP**

The annual competition for the Walker Ambulance Trophy, open to a team of adult members of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Corps and adults attending St. Andrew's Ambulance Association First Aid Classes in Ayrshire and who hold First Aid Certificates of Proficiency, took place in the County Hall, Ayr.

Nine teams entered and Kames Colliery, Muirkirk, whose team are members of the local Ambulance Section, scored a very fine win with 319½ points against 313 for the runners-up. The victorious Muirkirk team was composed of William Shaw (Captain), William Mathieson, William Cooke, and John Laidlaw.

JUNIORS IN DIFFICULTY

In early July a special general meeting of Muirkirk Junior F.C. was called to debate the future of the Club. There was only a handful of supporters present, and because of the lack of interest shown it was decided to disband the Club.

However another special meeting was called the following week, and it was decided to carry on Muirkirk Junior Football Club, with Mr T. Morrison as President, Mr W. Ralton as Secretary, and Mr J. Menzies as Treasurer.

BUSINESS CLOSING

Miss Barbara Jones announced that her Hairdressing Business at 4 Main Street was now closed and she thanked her customers for their support during her stay in Muirkirk.

ATHLETICS

Jim McLatchie returned to track racing after being off for a few weeks with an injury to his hip, which is now much better.

Here are some of his results in America:—

Larado—1st in the mile race in 4-12.

Milwaukee—3rd in the on-mile indoor American Federation Championships in 4-12.3.

Odessa—1st in the one-mile in 4-24, and won the Distance Medley after being fifty yards behind.

Before the last track event was at the Cardinal Institute Jim set up a new school record in the mile with a time of 4-7.09. Already Jim has become one of America's top collegiate milers.

CLOSING DOWN

Miss Jean C. Brown announced that she is giving up business on Saturday, 29th February. Her shop was opposite Main Street School.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

A new road is being made at the top of the town—at the 'bus terminus—up into Garronhill, through the space where the Old Bank House used to stand. Trees had to be cut down, and when a branch fell on the electric wires the electric current was off for about three hours, and some folks had to do with a cold dinner.

TRANSFER

Mr Norman Harrison, Clerk and Registrar at the District Council Office at Wellwood Street for the past seven years, has been transferred to the Mauchline Office, and his place here has been filled by Miss Helen Hazle, Garpel Avenue, who has been employed in the Council Office at Millbank, Cumnock.

LONG SERVICE

Sixty-six years old Mr John Blackwood, who has been shepherd at Waterhead Farm for 40 years, was presented with the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society's medal for long service to agriculture, at the Ayr Show recently. Mr Blackwood was shepherd at Nether Whitehaugh for six years before he moved to Waterhead.

PRESENTATION TO MISS AGNES TAYLOR

Miss Agnes Taylor, Primary teacher at Furnace Road School, retired at Easter. The unexpected illness of her brother, Mr Charles Taylor, forced her to retire a bit earlier than she had originally planned, which was to have been at the end of the session. Miss Taylor taught in Ayrshire for almost 40 years, over 36 of these being spent in Muirkirk, her native town. A person of a quiet and kindly disposition, Miss Taylor made a name for herself as an extremely efficient and popular teacher. Many a pupil will long remember her with real affection and lasting gratitude. Mr W. M. Crichton, Headmaster of the Secondary School together with Mr A. Taylor and Miss E. Rae, visited her home in Garronhill, and on behalf of the school staff handed over a cheque, along with their good wishes for a long and happy retirement. After a suitable reply, Miss Taylor entertained her former colleagues to tea.

OBITUARY**THE LATE MR WILLIAM MILLAR**

Mr William Millar, a well-known and highly respected member of our community, passed away at his home at 42 Harwood Avenue, on 23rd February, aged 63 years.

A miner by profession, Mr Millar suffered from silicosis, and had been in failing health for some time. He was a life-long church worker, first in the United Free Church, which later became Wellwood Church, and in which he was ordained as an elder in 1931, and, after the union with the Parish Church he carried on his good work there as an Elder, a member of the Choir, and as Superintendent of the Sunday School, to which post he was appointed in 1950. He is survived by his wife and son and daughter-in-law.

THE LATE MR WILLIAM MCGILLIVRAY

A well-known figure in our district for many years, Mr William McGillivray, passed away at Ayr in March. Mr McGillivray was a member of the well-known family who farmed Auldhouseburn for a long number of years, and in former years as a young man he plied our streets daily with his milk float. In later years he lived at Holmhead before retiring to Ayr. He was a keen member of the farmers' bridge team which took part in many well-remembered contests in the district. Mr McGillivray is survived by his wife and daughter.

THE LATE MR ARCHIE MITCHELL

Many old friends in the district would learn with regret of the death, on 27th March, after a short illness, of Mr Archibald Mitchell, formerly of Cairn View, Wellwood Street, in his 92nd year. Mr Mitchell had been living with his son, Lex, at Glasgow for the past four years. A well-known and highly respected Muirkirker, Mr Mitchell retired 26 years ago from the railway, having served for many years as a passenger guard, first on the old G.&S. W. and later on the L.M.S. The possessor of a fine tenor voice, Mr Mitchell was a prominent singer in his younger days at a time, incidentally, when Muirkirk had quite a surfeit of top-grade vocalists, and he sung in Glasgow Barony Choir. He was also Precentor in the old Free Church in the days of the late Rev. James Greenshields, leading the choir before an organ was introduced to the Church. A keen gardener, Mr Mitchell had always a fine show at Wellwood Street, and was quite a specialist in begonias. He was predeceased by his wife Mary Wilson, also a Muirkirk native, about eight years ago. Mr Mitchell, who was also one of the oldest members of Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, Muirkirk, was laid to rest at Muirkirk Cemetery.

THE LATE MRS JAMES CLEMENT

Mrs James Clement, wife of the late Mr James Clement, coal merchant and contractor, died suddenly at her home at Irondale Cottage, on 8th April. Mrs Clement had been in failing health for some time past, but the end was unexpected. Mrs Clement helped her husband in running the business, and was well known throughout the district. Mr Clement passed away about seven months ago.

DEATHS ABROAD

News was received with regret of the death of two Muirkirk men in Canada, both in Calgary. Mr Harry Rollett, who died suddenly on 20th April, was a joiner to trade, and served his time with William Baird & Co. He married a Muirkirk lass, Peggy McKay, and lived for nearly thirty years at Douglas Water, before going to Canada about seven years ago. They were home on holiday two years ago, when they called to see us. Harry was a foreman joiner with a Calgary firm, and also helped one of his two sons to run a bakery business. He was 62 years of age.

Another Muirkirk man, Mr William Ross, aged 71 years, died in a Calgary hospital on 11th April. He was connected with the Higgins family, who lived for many years at the Old Bank at the top of the town. It is almost 40 years since Mr Ross left Muirkirk for Canada, and he worked on the land until joining the staff of Col. Bletcher Hospital in 1945. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

THE LATE MR WILLIAM ROWE

The village was saddened on Friday (19th June) by news of the death at Ballochmyle of a well known and highly respected Muirkirk man, Mr William Rowe, of the firm of Messrs T. Rowe & Sons, Townhead Garage and Toll Service Station.

A key figure in the business all his working life, Willie was a cheerful and most industrious personality, and over the years his willing service at all times gained him the highest respect of all with whom he came in contact. On many an occasion his help in an emergency has been of the greatest value, and the community is much the poorer by his passing.

Mr Rowe was 54 years of age, and had been dogged by ill health for some time past. He is survived by his wife and two married daughters, and to them and other members of the Rowe family we would express our deepest sympathy at this time.

THE LATE SIR HUMPHREY BROUN LINDSAY

Memories of Muirkirk of other days are recalled by news of the recent death of Major Sir Humphrey Broun Lindsay, of Colstoun, Haddington, East Lothian. Sir Humphrey was 76. His wife, Lady Broun Lindsay was formerly Miss Edith Baird of Wellwood House, Muirkirk.

Sir Humphrey had a distinguished military career in his younger days, and was made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order and retired from the Army in 1921.

He was a former Unionist M.P. for Partick, and later he became a Vice-Lieutenant of East Lothian and County Council Convener and Chairman of the South-Eastern Regional Hospital Board. He took part in the forming of the Home Guard on the outbreak of the Second World War, while he was also a President of the Association of County Councils in Scotland, a Vice-President of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry), and Chairman of the East Lothian Agricultural Executive Committee. For his distinguished public service, not only to East Lothian, but to Scotland as a whole, he received a Knighthood in 1947. A prominent Freemason, Sir Humphrey was a P.M. of Lodge St. John Kilwinning, Haddington. He is survived by Lady Broun Lindsay and a son.

THE LATE MR THOMAS R. HOGG

The Grim Reaper steadily takes his toll of old friends and personalities in our midst, and last week saw the passing of another well-loved inhabitant and big-hearted sportsman in the person of Mr Thomas R. Hogg, retired master baker, who died at his home at 65 Main Street on 14th July.

Tom Hogg the baker was indeed a grand personality who was respected by all who knew him. He was bred into the baking trade, and succeeded his father in the well-known business at Main Street.

Sportingly inclined, Tom was well known throughout the district in many spheres. As a young man, he was a stalwart centre-half for Muirkirk Athletic in pre-First World War days. He took a great interest in greyhound coursing and pony trotting, and indeed most activities of a sporting nature could attract Tom's interest, with always one over-ruling factor in his outlook—Moderation in all things.

On the bowling green Tom was a doughty gentlemanly opponent, and he was a Past President and life-long supporter of Muirkirk Bowling Club. Members of the Bridge Club will also retain memories of many a delightful evening in his company, sometimes as his guest, and indeed in a wide variety of aspects Muirkirk is much the poorer through the passing of Tom Hogg, who had reached the venerable age of 79 years. He is survived by Mrs Hogg and two married daughters.

THE LATE MR THOMAS ROSS

The village was saddened on Wednesday of last week (15th July) to learn of the sudden death of Mr Thomas Ross, 7 Wellwood Avenue. Tom had gone to work as usual on the afternoon shift underground at Kames Colliery. Sometime later he complained of feeling unwell, and passed away shortly afterwards. Mr Ross, who was well known and respected, was 51.

THE LATE MR HUGH WILLIAMSON

Mr Hugh Williamson, who died at the residence of his daughter in Carnwath, on 2nd December, at the age of 91 years, was a well-known Muirkirk man and a great Church worker in his younger days. Mr Williamson, who formerly resided at the old Midhouse Row, was connected for very many years with the Kames Mission Church as Beadle (from 1910 until the Church closed in 1952). He was also an official of the Penny Savings Bank which was operated from the Vestry of that Church.

THE LATE MRS JOHN WILSON

On the same day, Mrs John Wilson, passed away at her home at 4 Middlefield Drive. Mrs Wilson, 83 years of age, was a singer of some repute as a young woman, and for a long number of years she gave valuable service as a convener at sales of work and various charitable efforts.

THE LATE MR HENRY CASAGRANDA

Many Muirkirk friends also learned with deep regret of the passing at Calgary, Canada, on 1st December, of another well-known Muirkirk man, Mr Henry Casagranda. Henry, who was 46 years of age, left Muirkirk only a year or two ago with his family to settle in Canada. He was a former official of Kames Miners' Union Branch, and was connected with various local sporting activities.

THE LATE MR HUGH LOVE

We regret to report the passing of Mr Hugh Love at his home at 7 The Stile, at the age of 75 years. One of Muirkirk's best known personalities, Mr Love was known to all, and gave a life-time of service to our community in many spheres.

A keen sportsman in his young days, he gained many successes on the running track and in cycling, and his interest in the latter continued throughout his life, being an Honorary President of Muirkirk Cycling Club. He also became a kenspeckle figure on the bowling green, and was a past President of Muirkirk Bowling Club.

He was a Past Master of Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, and a Past Patron of Wellwood Chapter, O.E.S., No. 159.

At one time he was also a keen poultry fancier, gaining successes at the shows with his Scots Greys.

In 1927 he was elected to the Board of Muirkirk Co-operative Society, and since 1956 he has held the position of President. Over the years he became one of Ayrshire's best-known figures in the Co-operative movement, and held many executive positions, including the Chairmanship of the South Ayrshire Co-operative Party, and he was a member of the Ayrshire Co-operative Association and District Council.

He also represented Muirkirk on Cumnock District Council, and was a past Chairman of Muirkirk Local Labour Party. His work in connection with the old folks welfare extended over many years, and any local activity for the public good had his fullest practical support.

A kindly and helpful personality, Mr Love was held in the highest esteem and with his good lady, Mrs Morah Love, who passed away in March of last year, formed a worthy couple of inestimable value in public service to Muirkirk. He is survived by his daughter, Annette.

NEW PARISH MINISTER

Rev. John Linkens, B.D.

The ordination and induction of the Rev. John Linkens, B.D., to Muirkirk Parish Church took place at a service on 16th December.

MUIRKIRK IN CANADA

Recently a Muirkirk young man, Mr John Goldie, was walking in the City of Toronto in Canada and turned into a road which, to his surprise—and ours— bore the familiar name, “Muirkirk Road.” Perhaps some of our friends in Toronto can shed some light on this intriguing subject.

Sure enough, a letter arrived on the Editor's desk the following week from Manchester from Mr Alex. D. Wardrop (Sandy to his friends), who wrote as follows:—

“You make reference to a street name ‘Muirkirk’ in Toronto. I am not surprised at this, because during the War, when I was in Ontario training for my wings, I was piloting a plane south of London, Ontario, and close to Lake Erie. I was checking my course on the map when I spotted a small village beneath me. On checking the map, imagine my surprise when I found the name of the village was Muirkirk.”

“I had no sooner landed back at the base than a letter was off to the authorities to find out the origin of why this village was called Muirkirk.”

“My reply came straight away, and though they could not name the individual responsible, it was believed that originally the village of Muirkirk in the district of Oxford, Ontario, had been named by a man who came from Muirkirk in Ayrshire.”

Most interesting, you will agree, but to top this, our well-known townsman, Mr Alex. McNair, 27 Hareshaw Crescent, tells me that when he was a boy of nine years of age he went out to Canada with his folks. His dad was an agricultural worker, and they went from Glenbuck and spent three years at Muirkirk, Ontario. Then they came back to Muirkirk, Ayrshire.

RAIL CLOSURES

Saturday, 3rd October, saw the end of our old-established railway passenger service to Lanark, and it also marked the closure of the Locomotive Sheds at Muirkirk. Time inevitably brings changes, but it is sad to see these valuable sources of employment pass from the local scene.

GENERAL ELECTION RESULT

South Ayrshire

EMRYS HUGHES, Lab. 24,795

W. H. HUNTER, Con. 12,392

No Change Maj. 12,403

CAIRNTABLE

The other day, in conversation with a few of our older residents, we learned that there has been some argument as to the actual position of the old war memorial on the top of Cairntable, some holding that the cairn was actually in Lanarkshire. In our office we have one of the fine maps which emanated from the pen of our well-remembered citizen, the late Mr Charles P. Bell, and to us it would seem that the Cairn is just inside the Ayrshire border, but we can tell you it is near enough. If any of our arguing friends are to come in and see it they are, of course, very welcome.

MINER KILLED

David Moreland, 27 years of age, a miner, residing at 9 Bell's Wynd, Douglas, was killed by a fall from the roof underground at Kames Colliery on 19th November—the seventh anniversary of Kames Disaster. David was a member of a well-known Muirkirk family, and much sympathy has been expressed for his wife, Dorothy, and their two infant daughters, Frances (2) and Diane (4 months), so tragically bereaved.

EMERGENCY AT KAMES

An emergency call-out on 20th November sent mine rescue squads from many parts of Ayrshire and Lanarkshire hurrying to Kames Colliery.

The stand-by began after a report of over-heating in a section of the Colliery. The men working in the section were withdrawn immediately the alert was raised.

A spokesman at Area Headquarters at Lugar said that it was a full-scale alert taken on reports of the over-heating. “The emergency seems to be confined to one section and there is no apparent danger to the men in the other sections.”

Efforts to rectify the position are continuing.

From the Issue of 3rd December—

KAMES COLLIERY

Halts in production at Kames Colliery and the closing of a section through over-heating during the past fortnight have naturally been causing concern in the district, and on several days the whole pit has been at a standstill, apart from the constant efforts by teams trying to remedy the situation. After being idle on Monday, and the miners being sent home again on Tuesday, there has been an improvement in the situation, and work was resumed yesterday morning. We also understand that it is hoped to employ all the men affected by the closed section.

LICENCE GRANTED

At a sitting of Ayr District Licensing Court, Muirkirk Co-operative Society, Ltd., was granted an off-sale licence for their Branch 24 Main Street.

MUIRKIRK ESTATES

In a list of Ayrshire estates recently is that of Mr Robert Masterton, late of the Empire Bar, Glasgow Road, Muirkirk, who left £6,316.

INDUSTRY-FOR-MUIRKIRK

Prompted by recent concern over underground problems at Kames Colliery the local Labour Party were prompted to call a public meeting with a view to encouraging new industry to Muirkirk, and the result was a largely attended meeting in the Regal Cinema in December. Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P., was also in attendance, and a very lively meeting it turned out to be. After much discussion it was decided to form an “Industry-for-Muirkirk Committee” in an effort to try and attract firms to come and set up here in Muirkirk. This Committee was to play an important role in the village as subsequent issues will show.

THE LATE REV. DAVID CROSBIE

Muirkirk folks learned with regret of the sudden passing at his Manse on 9th April of the Rev. David Crosbie, B.D., Minister of the West Church, Perth. Mr Crosbie, who was 62 years of age, was the eldest son of the late Mr David Crosbie (Grocer), and of Mrs Crosbie, Clutha, Wellwood Street.

He came to Muirkirk with his folks as a young man, and after graduating M.A. at Glasgow University, he was a popular teacher at Muirkirk Junior Secondary School for some years, before attaining his Divinity Degree.

Mrs Crosbie is, of course, a well-known Muirkirk personality, being the second daughter of the late Rev. John Henderson, for many years our Parish Minister, and Mrs Henderson, and our deepest sympathy goes out to her in her heavy loss.

FOOTBALL (Season 1963-64)

Local supporters were down in the doldrums again this season as it was the same mixture as before as far as Muirkirk Juniors were concerned. Surprisingly enough, though, they got away to a grand start by defeating Auchinleck Talbot 4—2 at Ladeside Park in the opening game. The team was:—Ballantyne; Connell, Scott; Feenie, Quinn, J. Currie; Winning, Herson, Blair, Brown, Swegsda.

Thereafter it was downhill for the Juniors. Blantyre Vics. beat them 3—2 in the 1st round of the West of Scotland Cup. Worse was to come when Yoker Athletic visited Ladeside Park in the 1st round of the Scottish Cup and beat the homesters 3—1. The Muirkirk team was:—Ballantyne; Feenie, Hamilton; Short, Quinn, Mulgrew; Winning, Peebles, Blair, Brown, O'Hara.

It soon became one embarrassment after the other, culminating in a 11—1 thrashing at Ladeside Park by Craigmark. This was another season the local support were glad to see the back of.

But it was not all gloom and doom on the football front. Kames Colliery beat Lugar Works 2—1 in the final of the N.C.B. Summer Cup at Townhead Park, Cumnock. The Muirkirk team was:—R. Ward; Elias Begg, Adam Murdoch; Jim Ward, Tom Frew, C. Peters; John Davidson, John Ross, John Park, John Masterton, Don McKenzie.

LOCAL STATISTICS — 1964**BIRTHS**

WARNOCK.—To Mr and Mrs Danny Warnock (Mary Davidson) on 6th January; a daughter.
BAIN.—To Mr and Mrs Andrew Bain (Marion Stodart) on 13th January; a daughter.
DAVIDSON.—To Mr and Mrs J. W. Davidson (Basilia Logie) on 23rd February; a daughter.
FREW.—To Mr and Mrs J. Frew on 7th March; a son.
SMITH.—To Mr and Mrs Billy Smith; a daughter.
HIGGINS.—To Mr and Mrs James Higgins (Elizabeth Mackin); a daughter.
CONN.—To Mr and Mrs David Conn (Hilda Brown) on 3rd August; a son.

BROWN.—To Mr and Mrs Richard Brown (Margaret Simpson); a son.
CONNOR.—To Mr and Mrs John Connor (Ann Fleming) on 5th August; a son.
GIBSON.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Gibson (Helen Johnstone) on 24th August; a son.
HOUSTON.—To Mr and Mrs John Houston (Betty McCulloch) on 14th August; a son.
DRIFR.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Drife on 27th September; a daughter.
KIRKWOOD.—To Mr and Mrs Charles Kirkwood on 12th November; a daughter.
BROWN.—To Mr and Mrs John Brown (Margaret Parker) on 25th December; a son.

MARRIAGES

DAVID BLYTH to MARY DALZIEL on 22nd February.
DONALD McGARVA to MARGARET BROWN on 7th March.
JAMES BOCHAN to ANNA WARD on 14th March.
GEO. WALLACE to MARGARET RUSSELL on 14th March.
JAMES DYKES to CHRISTINA PRINGLE on 1st April.
DAVID GAW to MARY MASTERTON on 4th April.
GEORGE ROBSON to MAUREEN BAIN on 13th June.
WM. JOHNSTONE to EVELYN McLACHLAN on 4th July.
DANIEL BARRIE to JEAN ANDERSON on 25th July.
JAMES CAMPBELL to ANNE BLYTH on 1st August.
WM. MAXWELL to ELIZABETH McINALLY on 10th Sept.
THOS WYLIE to CATHERINE PARK on 19th September.
JOHN McLEAN to JENNIFER LAUGHTON on 3rd Oct.
ROBERT TURNER to ELIZ. MITCHELL on 17th October.
ANDREW ROSS to MARLENE DEMPSTER on 24th Oct.
AGNES HYSLOP to ROBERT PARK on 28th November.
TOM RORRISON to GILLIAN CROWCROFT on 5th Dec.

DEATHS

NELSON.—At 10 Stitt Place on 23rd January, Thomas Nelson; aged 83 years.
MEGREW.—At Ayr on 3rd February, Agnes McCall, aged 83 years.
GOUDIE.—At Auchinleck, Agnes Barrie, aged 56 years.
GOURLAY.—At Tilllicoultry on 8th February, Bessie Kirkwood; aged 81 years (widow of Thomas Gourlay, Printer, Girvan).
BOYES.—At Dumfries on 17th February, Johanna McIntyre (late of Muirkirk).
COLTHART.—At Musselburgh on 20th February, John Colthart (late of Muirkirk).
MILLAR.—At 42 Harwood Avenue on 23rd February, William Millar, aged 63 years.
PARK.—At Ballochmyle on 26th February, George Park, 2 Millers Road; aged 74 years.
DAVIDSON.—At 41 Pagan Walk on 9th March, Janet Dempster, aged 68 years.
CROSBIE.—At Forth on 15th March, Jean Ross, aged 83 years (late of Glenbuck and Muirkirk).

- DOW.—At Ballochmyle on 25th March, William Dow, 39 Stoneyhill Avenue; aged 76 years.
- McCULLOCH.—At 42 Lovedale Crescent on 27th March, Mary McCulloch, aged 42 years.
- MITCHELL.—At Glasgow on 27th March, Archibald Mitchell (late of Cairnview, Muirkirk); aged 92 years.
- FLEMING.—At Manchester on 3rd April, James Fleming (late of Muirkirk); aged 68 years.
- BOLAND.—At Dublin on 12th April, Mary Smith, 5 Middlefield Drive; aged 69 years.
- CLEMENT.—At Iroindale Cottage on 8th April, Mrs James Clement.
- CROSBIE.—At Perth on 9th April, the Rev. David Crosbie.
- MURDOCH.—At Ayr on 27th April, Ronald Murdoch (late of Glenbuck); aged 82 years.
- ROLLETT.—At Calgary, Canada, on 20th April, Harry Rollett; aged 62 years.
- ROSS.—At Calgary, Canada, on 11th April, William Ross (late of Muirkirk); aged 71 years.
- McGLASHAN.—At Ballochmyle on 17th May, Jessie Hancock, aged 61 years.
- McINTOSH.—At Ballochmyle on 26th May, Mary Wallace, 29 Burns Avenue; aged 77 years.
- SHAW.—At 5 Stitt Place on 21st May, Eliz. Reid; aged 69 .
- HAMILTON.—At Ayr on 10th June, Grace McKinlay (late of Kirkgreen); aged 76 years.
- HARVIE.—At Cumnock on 13th June, Janet McDonald, 46 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 70 years.
- THOMSON.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 12th June, Violet Thomson, Blackside, Muirkirk; aged 73 years.
- BARRIE.—At Irvine on 16th June, John Barrie (late of Muirkirk); aged 75 years
- ROWE.—At Ballochmyle on 19th June, William Rowe, Ingelwood, Muirkirk; aged 54 years.
- BARRIE.—At Ballochmyle on 27th June, Lachlan Barrie, 116 Wellwood Street; aged 70 years.
- McCANN.—At 12 Smallburn Drive on 24th June, Elizabeth McCann; aged 83 years.
- SAMSON.—At Ayr on 1st July, James Samson (late of 124 Henderson Drive); aged 93 years.
- McCULLOCH.—At Glasgow on 8th July, Bridget Morran; aged 35 years.
- McLARTY.—At Barrhill on 10th June, George McLarty (late of Airdsgreen, Glenbuck); aged 75 years.
- ROSS.—Suddenly at Kames Colliery on 15th July, Thomas Ross, 7 Wellwood Avenue; aged 51 years.
- ROWE.—At Ballochmyle on 19th June, William Rowe,
- McCANN.—At Ballochmyle on 19th July, Thomas McCann, 27 Garpel Avenue; aged 50 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At Kilmarnock on 29th July, Janet Dempster (late of 21 Millers Road); aged 84 years
- FLEMING.—At Forth on 24th July, Thomas Fleming (late of Muirkirk); aged 86 years.
- MACKIE.—At Irvine on 24th July, Mary Hazle, 24 Middlefield Drive; aged 69 years.
- O'BRIEN.—Suddenly, as the result of an accident, on 31st July, Michael O'Brien; aged 2½ years.
- MARSHALL.—At 3 Harwood Avenue on 6th August, Margaret Pearson; aged 73 years.
- CONNOLLY.—At New York on 31st July, John Connolly (husband of Susan Campbell).
- FOSTER.—At Ballochmyle on 27th August, John Foster, Kames Farm; aged 74 years.
- PRINGLE.—At Edinburgh on 3rd September, Elizabeth Wilson.
- DUNSMORE.—At Ballochmyle on 14th September, Daniel Dunsmore, 28 Lovedale Crescent; aged 55 years.
- SCOTT.—At Kilmaurs on 25th September, Andrew Scott (late of Muirkirk); aged 66 years.
- LOVE.—At 7 The Stile on 14th October, Hugh Love; aged 75 years.
- BONE.—At Glasgow on 16th October, George Bone (late of Glenbuck); aged 75 years.
- MARTIN.—At Ballochmyle on 25th October, Isabella Martin, 34 Lovedale Crescent.
- TAYLOR.—At 32 Middlefield Drive on 25th October; Elizabeth Hendry; aged 68 years.
- BRADFORD.—At Dunlop on 31st October, Isabella Kellock; aged 87 years.
- HOLDEN.—At 23 Kirkgreen on 31st October, Janet Haugh; aged 52 years.
- LOGIE.—At East Kilbride on 30th October, Jessie Love, 1 Kirkgreen; aged 70 years
- NISBET.—At Broxburn on 18th November, James Nisbet.
- SAMSON.—At Stonehouse on 15th November, Isabella Samson (late of Kirkgreen); aged 73 years
- McGILL.—At 40 Main Street on 19th November, Mary Findlay.
- SAMSON.—At 7 Kirkgreen on 15th November, Marion Neisham; aged 91 years.
- CASAGRANDA.—In Canada on 1st December, Henry Casagranda; aged 46 years.
- McDONALD.—At Irvine on 1st December, Mary Begg, 29 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 71 years.
- WILLIAMSON.—At Carnwath on 2nd December, Hugh Williamson, late of 16 Midhouse Row; aged 91 years.
- WILSON.—At 4 Middlefield Drive on 2nd December, Lilius Logie; aged 83 years.
- CRAWFORD.—At 62 Pagan Walk on 6th December, Thomas Crawford; aged 75 years.
- WYLLIE.—At Ballochmyle on 15th December, James Wyllie, 23 Colthart Drive; aged 68 years.
- BRADFORD.—At 5 Middlefield Drive on 17th December. James Bradford; aged 76 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At 8 Lovedale Crescent on 16th December, John Dempster; aged 77 years.
- WILSON.—At Ballochmyle on 20th December, James Wilson, 23 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 48 years.
- DE SYKES.—At 10 Colthart Drive on 25th December, John De Sykes; aged 62 years.

CHAPTER FIFTY-EIGHT

(1965)

THE CHANGING FACE OF MUIRKIRK

This was the year which really brought home to the residents that they did indeed face a bleak future. Old buildings were being demolished throughout the village, as well as the old rows at Southside, and while it was nice to see the condemned properties disappearing, the vacant spaces left were to become an even bigger eyesore. The closure of the railways and the local railway sheds had been a big blow to the local economy. The very fabric of the community was changing. Local organisations were struggling to make ends meet. One of the hardest hit was Muirkirk Junior Football Club, who seemed to survive on a week-to-week basis. Some had disappeared altogether. Most of the entertainment venues had gone. Then there was the news that the future of Kames Colliery was very much in doubt. How could the village survive without its mainstay of employment.

But nevertheless, Muirkirk, it was decided, would go on fighting for survival, and their never-say-die attitude attracted the attention of the media—well, was Muirkirk not the first village in the country to advertise itself on television? The recently elected Industry-for-Muirkirk Committee did sterling work in an effort to attract other industries to Muirkirk, and in this they were successful when Muirtex set up business in the village.

However, the downward trend, which really started just after the turn of the century, would continue, and the big question being asked, was how far will it go? The following chapters might tell us more.

Muirkirk Man in New Years Honours List

Mr WILLIAM J. HADDEN, B.E.M.

In the New Year Honours List recently published, we are delighted to note that amongst those awarded the British Empire Medal is Mr William J. Hadden, Chief Observer, 25/T4 Royal Observer Corps, Muirkirk.

Mr Hadden, a native of Aberdeen, and a former Lieutenant in the Gordon Highlanders, came to Muirkirk some 45 years ago, and is well known to all and highly respected in our community. He was one of the founder members of the local Royal Observer Post Crew when it was formed at the start of World War II., and still retains his connection, though retired from his service for many years in the Power Station at Kames Colliery. Mr Hadden has been Chief Observer at Muirkirk for fully 20 years, and, incidentally, only a few weeks ago he was presented with the clasp to his R.O.C. Long Service Medal, and it is noteworthy he is the first man in Group 25 to get the Clasp.

Mrs Hadden is, of course, a well known native of our village.

LOCAL CENSUS

The Industry-for-Muirkirk Committee are finding that Muirkirk is considered by many industrialists to lack sufficient labour to justify the establishing of a factory of any size in Muirkirk.

This of course is not accepted by the Committee, and in January they issued a census form to every household in the district. Married women are especially asked to ensure that their particulars are returned, as they are considered by firms in the textile trade to be the best source of employment.

This census was taken during the period from 21st January to 8th February, and it is estimated that 95 per cent. of the people concerned co-operated in the effort.

The age groups involved males from 12 to 60 years of age, and females from 12 to 55.

The figures are interesting, and show that the males employed in Muirkirk at present total 484, with another 100 employed outwith the village. There are 33 unemployed (excluding disabled persons), and 72 boys at school who would be available within the next few years. Altogether 492 males have signified interest in factory employment in Muirkirk.

The female figures show that 73 are employed in Muirkirk meantime, and 132 outwith the village. There are 15 unemployed, and of the foregoing 170 have signified interest in factory employment locally. In addition, no fewer than 321 housewives and widows would consider local factory work, and about 90 schoolgirls are coming forward to working age.

We have received a detailed copy of the census, which is very clearly set out, and feel that it should add considerable weight to the efforts of our enthusiastic Committee in their painstaking search for industry for Muirkirk.

NEW CLUBHOUSE

Muirkirk Angling Association have acquired the property known as Ashbank Cottage, Smallburn, and during the year gone past members have carried out extensive alterations which are now nearing completion. The layout consists of a spacious Clubroom, which has been adequately decorated and furnished, toilet accommodation, and a storeroom. A hatchery, which is to be incorporated in the cellar beneath the building, is hoped to be ready for trout-hatching about the back end of this year.

MUIRKIRK ESTATES

According to a list of inventories of estates lodged with the Sheriff Clerk of Ayrshire at Ayr, Mrs Annie Williamson Dempster or Clement, Irondale Cottage, left £13,859.

Mrs Janet Kay or Young, some time of New Cumnock, and late of Lightshaw, Muirkirk, left £5,687.

RETIREMENT

In December Sister A. Wilson, of Ward 33, Ballochmyle Hospital, retired after twenty-five years service at the Hospital. A native of Muirkirk, Sister Wilson received her nursing training at Stobhill, Ruchhill and the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and it is interesting to note that she and Matron Spence were fellow trainees at Stobhill. In her retirement she will live at 9 Wellwood Avenue.

TODDLIN' DOON THE BRAE

It was a pleasure at the start of the festive season to open our evening newspaper and read, on the letters page, the following from a Glasgow reader:—

"I am sending you a treasured cutting from the 'Evening Times' of the mid-Twenties which I cut out at that time so that my eldest girl of seven could learn it for her Sunday School party. . . .and thought that if you reprinted the poem not only would your letter writers appreciate it, but their children could pass it on . . ."

Then followed the poem, which gave us added pleasure because it was from the pen of Mr James Donaghy, one of our local poets of happy memory, and it also appeared in our columns some forty years ago. Mr Donaghy, who died in America a number of years ago, was in our own young days a well-known personality in our district. A cobbler by trade, he had his shop in Main Street, and we remember the family well when they resided in Burnside before they left for America. Mr Donaghy was also a dance teacher (he was a champion clog-dancer as well), and was a violinist in Muirkirk Amateur Orchestra as well as playing for his dancing classes and at local dances.

We feel certain that our readers—old and young—will appreciate these lines of wisdom, which we are happy to reproduce once again.—

Yestreen a puir auld beggar man
 Cam toddlin' doon the brae,
 His feet were sair, his face was wan,
 His shaggy beard was grey.
 Some whaips o' boys were playin' there,
 Wha'd nae mair sense than kye,
 Foe sneers and jeers they didna spare
 As he gaed hirplin' by.

The puir auld man had heard their crack,
 An', slowly turnin' roon',
 Tae that hauf-glaikit, senseless pack
 He read a lecture soun';
 "Oh boys," he said, "I'm way tae see
 Ye stop yer hairmless play
 Tae rile a puir auld man like me
 Wha's toddlin' doon the brae."

"This life," said he "is yae lang brae
 We a' maun toddle doon; wee,
 Ha'e a' their pairts tae play,
 An' you, my boys, are just like me,
 Ye're toddlin' doon the brae."

"The sky sae blue that smiles on you
 Yince looked as fair on me,
 An' visions bright that meet yer view,
 I yince masel' could see.
 Ye're on the road that I ha'e trod
 This mony a lang, lang day;
 Tho' braid's yer back an' licht yer load,
 Ye're toddlin' doon the brae.

"The road, I'm share, tae you looks fair,
 But oh, ye little ken
 There's kittle places here an' there
 That try the best o' men.
 So when ye meet wi' yin like me
 Wha's feeble, auld, and grey,
 Jist whisper tae yersel' that he
 Is toddlin' doon the brae."

"I hope ye'll no' be angry noo,
 If I've been kind o' snell;
 God grant your troubles may be few,
 For I've had lots masel."
 Then, as the boys gaed ower the stile
 I heard the wanderer say,
 "May fortune smile on you the while
 Ye're toddlin' doon the brae."

Weel cowed, they a' gaed slinkin' hame,
 An' pleased was I tae see
 On every face a look o' shame,
 A tear in every e'e.
 Then, turnin' slowly roon' again,
 The auld man went his way,
 An', limpin' on through wind an' rain,
 Gaed toddlin' doon the brae.

SWIMMER EXTRAORDINARY

At the Cheetham Swimming Club's annual gala held in October, Eileen Wardrop, daughter of well-known Muirkirk man and former ace cyclist, Mr Sandy Wardrop, Manchester, had a real field day. Aileen won the Girls' Back Stroke Championship, the Ladies' Backstroke Championship, and the Girls' Freestyle Championship.

BLOOD DONORS

In October, 141 volunteers came forward to give their blood at a session in the Church Hall, Glasgow Road. Of these, 130 were accepted. This is the highest figure since October, 1963, when 139 donations were taken.

Correspondence

LOCAL CLOCK MAKERS (To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—I heard there is a lady in Auchinleck with an 8-day clock which has the name Glenbuck on the face. She has a Muirkirk connection.

The farthest I can go back about clock repairers, is a Mr James White who was a pithead man at Gala Whistle Pit, and left Glenbuck for Glasgow District about, I reckon, 66 years ago to benefit his family, with successful results.

I will feel honoured if you can get any later dates of clockmakers about Glenbuck.

The owner referred to reckons her clock is around 200 years old.—Yours faithfully,

INTERESTED

Muirkirk, 11th December, 1965.

SCHOOLBOY INTERNATIONALIST

Our heartiest congratulations to 15-year-old Iain McNair, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alex. McNair, 23 Hareshaw Crescent, on being selected to play for Scotland against England in the Schoolboy International at Wembley on 3rd April. Iain plays in goal, and has caught the eye for some time with his sterling displays in both the Primary and Secondary school teams at Muirkirk and later with Cumnock Academy, while he also plays for Kilmarnock Amateurs.

And for the benefit of older readers, and especially Glenbuck and Muirkirk folks in other airts and across the seas, we hasten to add that Iain is a grandson of the redoubtable Willie Wallace and a great grand-son of Jim "Pimp" Menzies, both of whom were outstanding footballers in the heyday of Glenbuck Cherrypickers and Muirkirk Athletic.

OBITUARY

George Meikle Shaw Smith, who died suddenly at his home in North London on 14th April, was born in Muirkirk, being the elder son of the late William Shaw Smith, founder and former Editor/owner of "The Muirkirk Advertiser," and the late Mrs Smith.

During the First World War he was sent to Salonika and Russia, where, at the age of 22, he held the resounding title of Senior Medical Officer of the British Forces in the Crimea.

A FAR CRY

It was a great pleasure the other day to meet once again Mr Camiel Ingelbinck and his son, Paul, from Wetteren, Belgium. Mr Ingelbinck was a member of one of the Belgium refugee families domiciled with us in the First World War. They stayed at Kames Cottages from the beginning of 1915 till 1919, and the Ingelbincks particularly have never lost touch with their Muirkirk friends, as this is Camiel's third visit. As a lad he worked as a weighman at Kames Colliery, and he was in the textile industry in Belgium until his retiral. His son, Paul, is a draughtsman, and recently won a competition for interior architectural design out of 117 entries. They are staying for a few days with old friends, Mr and Mrs Tom Steven, at The Stile, and their visit stirs up memories of days of long ago.

MORE DEMOLITION

On the Southside of the village the old familiar Springhill Terrace is fast disappearing at the hands of the demolishers, as are the engine sheds. The railway sidings are also being lifted. In addition some more derelict properties at the top of the town have been demolished and the area has taken on a look of dereliction.

SCHOOL SPORTS

Muirkirk Junior Secondary School held their annual sports in June, and the Champions were as follows:—

Secondary Boys—D. Rae	Secondary Girls—J. Park
Primary Boys—D. Masterton	Primary Girls—J. Lowe
1st Year Boys—H. Wyper	1st Year Girls—M. Amos

DUX MEDAL

The Dux prize at Muirkirk J.S. School (presented by Mrs Rutherford) for 1965 was won by Donald Russell

A RARE FIND

In July a local boy picked up a large silver medal on the site of the old Ironworks at Southside. It bore the inscription:—"For the Best Animal of the Horse Kind, 1871."

This is quite possibly a relic of the days of Muirkirk Cattle Show, which was held, we think, on the second Friday of June or Cattle Show Holiday on the Saturday. Maybe someone can help in identifying it.

At this time of the year nowadays it is interesting to reflect on hearsay about these old days. Apart from much necessary effort on preparation of exhibits, etc., for the show, every year the houses were whitewashed to make them spic and span for the occasion.

The annual holidays consisted of this Saturday in June—when there was a picnic to Cairntable if the weather was fine; and a rail excursion to Ayr on the Fast Day in July (for a paddle in the sea—"the annual footwash," they called it, jokingly. But that, happily, was long, ago.

While on the subject of the Cattle Show, we also remember being told that amongst the various competitions organised was a contest "For the Cleanest House in the Village," with the judges going round the various abodes and even inspecting "below the beds." We remember seeing a winner's medal in this connection.

THE GOOD NEWS

The news that a small factory to provide work for local female labour is to be started in a matter of weeks will gladden the hearts of Muirkirk folks everywhere. For many years now this has been a crying need in the village, and we sincerely hope the venture will be blessed with the success it deserves. According to our information, the sponsors—an established firm, incidentally—are enthusiastic about the project, and we feel sure that the local workers enlisted will respond accordingly. It is something entirely new for Muirkirk, and a chance surely to enhance an already good reputation in various spheres over past years.

Although primarily the new venture has been directed to Muirkirk through County Council channels, the work and enthusiasm of our Industry-for-Muirkirk Committee, in providing labour census figures, a good deal of other preliminary effort, and culminating in paving the way for the acquisition of the Drill Hall, has played a big part, and deserves the highest commendation.

Since its inception—received with some scepticism, it must be said—the Committee has worked unceasingly in the face of several previous disappointments, and we know that while this initial success has naturally brought a good deal of satisfaction, it is by no means being greeted with any sense of complacency. In Fact, it is hoped that further developments of an industrial nature may be forthcoming.

OLD FAST DAY TRIP

An annual event looked forward to each year with great anticipation was "Wull Dempster's Trip" to Morecambe, and this year it proved as popular as every.

TRAGIC ACCIDENT

The village was shocked on 30th July to hear of the death of a five-year-old girl, Margaret Cameron Henderson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Henderson, Linburn Farm, where Mr Henderson is the Farm Manager. In the early afternoon Margaret was accidentally killed when an iron tubular gate on which she had been climbing fell on top of her, crushing the child on the concrete flooring. A poignant feature of the accident was that the child's father and three workers were just a few yards away when it happened.

IN THE NEWS

The efforts of the Industry-for-Muirkirk Committee and its first success in getting a factory started in Muirkirk are the subject of an article in a Sunday newspaper, in which a spokesman for the Committee is quoted as saying, "We feel this textile firm may be the breakthrough. We are hoping others will follow."

The Committee will hold their first dance to raise funds next month.

From 9th September issue:—

The new factory in the Drill Hall, taken over by Muirtex Ltd., Clothing Manufacturers, commenced production on Monday, when about twenty machinists reported for work. The staff will be increased as production gets under way.

JAMES IS MAN WITH AN AIM

The following, which appeared under the above heading, is reprinted from the August issue of "Coal News":—

Scotland's crackshot pit manager, James Love, returned from Bisley with his name on nine of the prize-lists.

James, from Ayrshire's Kames Colliery, admitted:—"My effort was not really as grand as it sounds."

The target he has set himself is to win the coveted Queen's Prize—a second time.

"There are only a few people who have taken it twice. It's my aim to be one of them," said James, who won the prize in 1957.

Open Champion

He took the Scottish open rifle championship in 1962 and has held the Ayr County Championship three times since 1950. When he was 16 years of age he won the Scottish small-bore championship.

His father, John Love, 74, a former surfaceman at Mauchline Colliery, has attended Bisley every year since 1908.

"Eleven years ago I discovered my left eye was sharper than my right. A piece of flying coal once slightly damaged my right eye and ever since then I found it tired easily under the strain of shoots," said Jim.

He spent a whole winter season with a .22 rifle indoors learning to fire left-handed.

James took up target shooting when he had to study for mining classes.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES?

Owing to poor attendances it was announced that the New Regal Cinema would be closed on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

DROWNING TRAGEDY

The village was shocked to hear of the death, through drowning, of a young couple who had entered the Garpel Water to bathe in a pool near the "21 Brig," not far from Kames Colliery.

The victims were 19-year-old Wilma McGarrity, 1 Stitt Place, and 21-year-old James Morrison, who belonged to the Aberdeen district, but who had been staying with the McGarrity family at Muirkirk.

The pool in question is about six feet deep in the centre, and the young couple, who were accompanied by Mrs McGarrity, had entered the water after picnicking at the spot, a favourite bathing rendezvous.

When the bathers dived into the peaty-coloured water and failed to re-appear, Mrs McGarrity became alarmed and ran to Kames Farm, where Mrs Foster phoned for help. Mr Johnston, Gas Manager, and Mr John Thomson, milk roundsman, raced to the spot, but were too late to help, and later the bodies were recovered by the Police by means of grappling irons.

MASONIC RINK WIN CUP

In September Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, won the Ayrshire Masonic Bowling Trophy.

The final was played at Saltcoats, where Kilmaurs, the holders, had to bow the knee to a well-balanced Muirkirk rink, who played to the top of their form, and the final score was: Muirkirk 17, Kilmaurs 10.

The Muirkirk rink was composed of James Gibson, Thomas Short, Hugh Welsh, and William Farrell (skip).

This was quite an achievement for the local Lodge, for the only previous occasion in the history of the competition that the cup came to Muirkirk was in 1918. As a matter of interest to older readers, the victorious rink that year was composed of William Patrick, Robert Young, Andrew Pringle, and Hugh Bell (skip).

COAT OF ARMS

The other day a friend showed us a very old plate adorned with Muirkirk's coat of arms, and it might be of interest to many who are possibly unaware that we have one, to describe it. It takes the form of a three-turreted castle flanked by a ram and a flag on one side and what looks like the man in the moon on the other. There is a moat in front of the castle, and the coat of arms is in the form of a shield with the name Muirkirk in scroll at the bottom.

CONSTABULARY CHANGES

Sergeant William Philips, who has been in charge at Muirkirk Constabulary for the past four and a half years, is being transferred to Maybole. His place will be taken by Sergeant Ernest Turnbull, who comes from the Police Traffic department at Irvine.

CO-OPERATIVE DIVIDEND
1/6 per £

BAD NEWS FOR KAMES COLLIERY

In November the National Coal Board announcement that 38 Scottish collieries are likely to be closed within the next five years has brought with it problems and headaches for our own district, where three collieries—Kames, Kennox, and Glentaggart are affected.

Closures will result mainly from exhaustion of reserves or for economic reasons, and Kames and Kennox have been placed in the latter category. It was hoped if the worse came to the worse redundant miners would be offered re-employment in other pits.

MUIRKIRK'S PREDICAMENT

Since the shock news that Muirkirk was likely to lose its main industry with the threatened closure of Kames Colliery, steps have been taken to stake a claim of the village for other employment.

A deputation from the Industry-for-Muirkirk Committee met Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P. for South Ayrshire, and the position of Muirkirk was fully discussed. Mr Hughes promised to do all that he could in pressing the claims of Muirkirk for other industry.

Mr Daniel Sim, County Convener, said:—"We are considering the many areas of the County, but of paramount importance is the desperate plight of the 3,250 inhabitants of the mining village of Muirkirk. The one and only industry in the village, Kames Colliery, is likely to close because of economics. Muirkirk is of particular importance, because the whole life of the village belongs to the Colliery. The basis of the life of the community is the continuation of work at Kames."

Mr Sim said that they would seek to direct new industries to the area. Mr Sim also said that he thought miners in districts where pits were to close would not be expected to travel 20 or 30 miles daily to other pits. His view was that people should not be taken to industry, but that industry should be taken to the people.

It was also announced by the Minister of State, Board of Trade, that a further programme of advance factory building is to be undertaken in Scotland by the Board of Trade for the specific purpose of providing employment in areas where colliery closures are to take place. The factors will be in addition to those announced in the autumn.

FOOTBALL (Season 1964—65)

It was another bad start for the Juniors for the new season, and they had to wait till the 10th October to record their first win.

In the first round of the Scottish Cup Blantyre Celtic were the visitors to Ladeside Park and beat the home side 2—1. The Muirkirk team was:—Dickson; Connell, Crolla; Ward, Miller, Innes; McDade, Davidson, Babbington, Young, O'Hara.

Muirkirk did manage to get to the semi-final of the Ayrshire Cup, but lost 4—0 to Saltcoats Victoria. The team was:—Ballantyne; Connell, Scott; Young, Miller, Peters; Babbington, Peebles, Ward Davidson, Laidlaw.

INDUSTRY-FOR-MUIRKIRK COMMITTEE

There was a large attendance in the Regal Cinema in December for the annual general meeting of the above body, when the main topic under discussion was the future of Kames Colliery. Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P., was present, and duly addressed the meeting.



Helicopter at Victory Park Gala Day

LOCAL STATISTICS—1965**BIRTHS**

BOLAND.—To Mr and Mrs Richard Boland (Caroline Graham); a daughter.

BRADFORD.—To Mr and Mrs David Bradford (Anne Wharrie) on 24th April; a son.

McGARVA.—To Mr and Mrs Don McGarva (Margaret Brown) on 3rd May; a son.

FORGIE.—To Mr and Mrs H. Forgie (Elizabeth Logie); a daughter.

MARRIAGES

Dr MICHAEL HOWELL to HELEN FINDLAY on 22nd May.

RODGER LITTLE to MARY DALZIEL on 3rd July.

JAMES BUNTING to MARY McLACHLAN on 17th July.

MATTHEW CARMICHAEL to ANNE STITT on 16th July.

JAMES MITCHELL to MARY BECK on 24th July.

ANDREW GOLD to PAULINE STRETTON on 24th July.

JOHN McCUBBIN to JEAN PARKER on 21st August.

RHODERICK McCAFFERTY to THERESA BOLAND on 4th September.

ARTHUR NIELSEN to JANE DAVIES on 28th August.

JOHN HOUSTON to CHRISTINA BICKERTON on 11th September.

WILLIAM MURPHY to ANNA BRYCE on 11th September.

JOHN TILSTONE to ANGELA MARSHALL on 17th September.

SCOTT DAVIDSON to MARION DODDS on 9th October.

JAMES MACKIN to DEIRDRIE MAGORRIAN on 9th October.

GEORGE BRADFORD to NANCY TODD on 15th October.

ALEXANDER BROWN to ISABELLA NIMMO on 16th October.

ROBERT ENGLAND to MARGARET McLARTY on 15th October.

ROBERT GORDON to ELIZABETH CREE on 30th October.

DEATHS

SAMSON.—At Ayr on 2nd January, Catherine Walker, 124 Henderson Drive.

BLYTH.—At Essex on 10th Nov., Anne McMillan; aged 94 .

BAIRD.—At Kateshall on 20th Jan, Joseph Baird; aged 84 .

HASTINGS.—At Ballochmyle on 15th Jan., Joseph Hastings.

VEITCH.—At Crosflatt on 21st Jan., Jane Veitch; aged 90

LOGIE.—In U.S.A. on 22nd Jan., Janet Millar; aged 87.

SAUNDERSON.—At Muirkirk on 2nd February, Graham Saunderson, 33 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 63 years.

ALLAN.—At Kirkconnel on 6th February, James Allan, 10 Smallburn Drive; aged 78 years.

PARK.—At Cumnock on 4th February, Elizabeth Park.

WEIR.—At Glasgow on 17th March, William Weir.

BROWN.—At Ballochmyle on 31st March, Margaret Brown; aged 54 years.

BRADFORD.—At Cumnock on 8th April, George Bradford; aged 89 years.

SPENCE.—At Liverpool on 6th April, John Wilson.

MUIR.—At Kilmarnock on 14th April, Nessie Fleming; aged 49 years.

PARK.—At Glenafton on 20th April, Matthew Park, aged 85 years.

WEIR.—At Coatbridge on 19th April, James Weir; aged 70 years.

MURDOCH.—At 36 Colthart Drive on 27th April, Gavin Murdoch; aged 79 years.

SHAW SMITH.—At London on 15th April George Shaw Smith.

McCALL.—At 4 Railway Buildings, Smallburn, on 5th May, Janet McColl; aged 70 years.

MURDOCH.—At 30 Henderson Drive on 5th May, Agnes Mark; aged 70 years.

HOLDEN.—At 39 Glasgow Road on 25th May, Matthew Holden; aged 68 years.

KELLY.—At Ballochmyle on 24th May, Malcolm Kelly, 44 Henderson Drive; aged 64 years.

McLUSKIE.—At 84 Pagan Walk on 5th June, Anne Kerr; aged 70 years.

STITT.—At Aylesbury on 9th June, Sophia Leslie, 55 Wardlaw Avenue; aged 66 years.

WILSON.—At Ballochmyle on 12th June, Margaret Neil, 7 Smallburn; aged 39 years.

WOOD.—In Canada on 11th June, John Dougall (late of Inglewood, Muirkirk); aged 69 years

BORTHWICK.—At Mid Wellwood on 22nd June, Laurence Borthwick; aged 85 years

DEMPSTER.—In New York on 27th June, Alex. Dempster; aged 67 years.

McCULLOCH.—At Huntingdon on 25th June, John McCulloch (late of Haystackhill); aged 66 years.

McVAY.—At 48 Main Street on 3rd July, Grace Thomson; aged 66 years.

HOGG.—At Ballochmyle on 9th July, William Hogg, 35 Glasgow Road; aged 70 years.

DA'PRATO.—At Ayr on 31st July, Mary Ross.

McLEOD.—At Girvan on 1st August, Agnes Young; aged 78

MUIR.—At 4 Stoneyhill Avenue on 5th August, Agnes McDonald; aged 78 years.

SEYMOUR.—At Glasgow on 28th July, Jean Rennie.

WALKER.—At 99 Henderson Drive on 28th August, Annie Brown; aged 72 years.

FINDLAY.—At Cairn House on 5th September, Jane Findlay; aged 82 years.

CLARK.—At Ballochmyle on 8th September, Margaret McMillan; aged 93 years.

HAUGH.—At 14 Middlefield Drive on 9th September, Thomas Haugh; aged 80 years.

WEIR.—In South Africa on 9th September, Isobel Dempster.

BOLAND.—At 1 Ironworks Cottages on 17th September, John Boland; aged 76 years.

McCALL.—At Ballochmyle on 18th September, Janet McKean, 20 Stitt Place; aged 76 years.

GIRDWOOD.—At Old Kilpatrick on 25th September, Helen Edgar, 26 Middlefield Drive.

FORRESTER.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd September, George Forrester, 17 Smallburn Drive; aged 63 years.

COWAN.—At 8 Wellwood Street on 7th Oct., George Cowan.

McKENZIE.—At Royal Samaritan Hospital on 10th October, Isober Menzies; aged 48 years.

FLEMING.—At Logan on 3rd November, Christina Fleming; aged 78 years.

SHAW.—At Dundonald on 5th November, Jane Breckenridge, 2 Wellwood Avenue; aged 73 years.

BAIRD.—At Glasgow on 15th Nov., Robert Baird; aged 60

DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle on 21st November, John Davidson, 16 Garpel Avenue; aged 63 years.

MIDDLETON.—At 19 Hareshaw Crescent on 22nd November, George Middleton; aged 70 years.

BROWN.—At 52 Hareshaw Crescent on 27th November, Thomas Brown; aged 52 years.

STACEY.—At Ballochmyle on 28th November, Sarah Breckenridge, 55 Pagan Walk.

CRAWFORD.—At Ballochmyle on 8th December, James Crawford, 23 Miller Road; aged 79 years.

MENZIES.—At Ballochmyle on 21st December, James Menzies, 3 Miller Road; aged 67 years.

NELSON.—At 23 Wellwood Street on 20th December, Margaret Crosbie; aged 59 years.

HOLDEN.—In Ontario on 8th Dec., John Holden; aged 60.

BROWN.—At Bangour Hospital on 31st December, John Brown; aged 67 years.

CHAPTER FIFTY-NINE

(1966)

THE LATE MR GEORGE MURDOCH BAIN

The district lost a well-known and highly respected figure by the death at Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine, on 15th April, of Mr George Murdoch Bain.

Mr Bain, for a long number of years carried on, with his sister, Miss Annie Bain, the well-known family business of George Bain & Sons, fruiterers, potato merchants, etc., founded by their late father at Glenbuck many years ago, and as time went on he became a well-known personality in the West of Scotland.

Our own early recollections of George go back to schooldays and football tussles on the old Burnside Park at Glenbuck, and later as colleagues in the local merchants' football teams who played matches with similar teams from neighbouring villages. A most industrious young man, he entered into the family business with great enthusiasm, and later, for a number of years, he won several important contracts for the supply of vegetables and fruit to Ayrshire schools and hospitals.

When the most of Glenbuck folks were transferred to Muirkirk, the present premises were established in Pagan Walk.

Mr Bain retained his keen interest in football throughout his life, and he was a real friend and benefactor to Muirkirk Junior Football Club through thick and thin, being also a past President of the Club, and when he was appointed Muirkirk delegate to the various legislative bodies, he quickly established himself in this sphere. He served on the Western League Committee, being a past Vice-President, the Irvine & District Committee, and the Ayrshire Junior F.A., of which he was a Past President and a Life Member. As Ayrshire delegate he also sat on the Executive of the Scottish Junior F.A., who gave him his latest and greatest honour in making him a Life Member.

Mr Bain was an Elder of Muirkirk Parish Church and a member of Muirkirk Masonic Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter

THE LATE DOCTOR T. C. FRAME

Many Muirkirk friends learned with regret of the death of Dr Thomas Cunningham Frame at his home in Ayr at the early age of 52 years.

Dr. Frame came to Muirkirk in 1938, and for six and a half years partnered Dr John Cameron here until Dr Cameron left for Rothesay and was succeeded at Muirkirk by Dr. Weir.

Dr. Frame was a popular figure in Muirkirk, and apart from his professional activities, he took a keen interest in local affairs, contesting a District Council election on one occasion, and being an enthusiastic member of the Bridge and Golf Clubs.

He went to practice in Ayr in 1949, and was a member of the County Local Medical Committee and an active member of the British Medical Association. He was also a member of the Gangrels Curling Club.

Dr. Frame is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son., to whom we express our sympathy at this time.

MUIRKIRK ESTATES

In a list of Ayrshire wills just published we note the following local estates:—

Laurence Borthwick, sen., retired farmer, late of Mid Wellwood Farm—£15,238.

William Hogg, retired engine driver, late of 35 Glasgow Road—£5,006.

OBITUARY

The death of Tom McCartney at Edinburgh at the home of his brother, James, brings back memories of other days—and especially of the old rows and their happy—and sometimes sad—recollections for so many Muirkirk folks. Although perhaps not so well equipped as some to negotiate our highways and byeways, and especially in the days when road transport was at a premium, Tom found a useful niche in “rinnin’ messages” and for many years he was a familiar figure on the roads with a “parcel from the Store” under his arm or perhaps a written note. He will also be remembered acting as “door-man” at Co-operative Dividend day. He was 66 years of age.

The death was also announced of Miss Jean Sunderland at her home, Sauchrie, Smallburn. Miss Sunderland was 83 years of age. In her early days she taught in Wellwood School, and finished her career at Furnace Road School. Miss Sunderland taught succeeding generations in local schools and played a quiet but most effective part in many Church and other activities. Over the years she had become one of the best-loved figures in the community.

VITAL STATISTICS

Miss Hazle, the local Registrar, informs us that during 1965, 25 marriages, 27 deaths, and 7 births were registered at Muirkirk. For a goodly number of years now, with deaths or births taking place in hospitals having to be registered in the districts where hospitals are located, local vital statistics did not give as full a picture as in the old days, but it is interesting to note that these registrations can now be made in the place of residence if desired.

PROMOTION

Mr T. J. Drife, Manager of the local branch of the Clydesdale Bank, has been promoted Manager of Beith Branch, and will take up his new duties on 28th March. During his stay in Muirkirk, Mr Drife took an active interest in the affairs of the village. The new manager at Muirkirk will be Mr William B. C. Beggs, who is at present at Prestwick Branch. Mr Begg’s good lady is, of course, a Muirkirk native, and will be better known to local inhabitants as Marion Gordon. Mrs Beggs was at one time Captain of the local Brownies, and, a teacher by profession, she taught at Lugar.

GENERAL ELECTION RESULT

(South Ayrshire)

EMRYS HUGHES 23,495
C. GRAVES, Conservative 11,442

Labour Majority 12,053

KAMES WIN AMBULANCE COMPETITION



Our congratulations to Kames Ambulance team on winning the N.C.B. Ayrshire Area Ambulance competition. Fourteen teams took part. The competition was held at Killoch Colliery, and Kames team came out on top with a total of 409 points, only seven points separating the first three teams. The winning team pictured above was composed of William Mathieson, William McPhee, William Shaw, and Jackie Laidlaw. Also in the picture is Sister J. McPike, who helped the team with their training.

A THRIVING CONCERN

In these days, especially in Muirkirk, it is indeed a pleasure to report the success of any local concern, and we are delighted to learn of the progress of our very first textile factory—Muirtex.

This firm started off in the Drill Hall last September, with a staff of five girls, and in the first six months of its existence the staff has now been increased to fifty. The result is that the factory at the Drill Hall is now literally “bursting at the seams,” and the firm, who have just won a big contract for the provision of nylon coats, envisage a new expansion programme. Part of the existing production plant is being transferred to the Community Centre Gymnasium, and it is hoped to increase production and absorb more local labour. We understand that in time it is hoped the firm will be able to employ all suitable local female labour and we hope their aims and ambitions will duly be successful.

DEATH OF FOOTBALL VETERAN

The sudden death of Mr Tom Brown, at the early age of 45 years, took place at Edinburgh in May. A Glenbuck product, Tom’s football prowess soon caught the eye in his schooldays, and he was a player of the well-remembered Muirkirk school team which did so well in the early 1930’s. He gained school-boy international honours then, and if memory serves us right he also gained Junior international honours while with Cambuslang Juniors before going on to Edinburgh Hearts. Then he was capped for Scotland in the war-time international team in which Glenbuck almost supplied the full half-back line, with Willie Shankly captain and right half, Tom Brown at left-half, and Bob Shankly reserve for the centre-half position. Tom later migrated to south of the border, but after ending his football career he came back to Edinburgh.

THE LATE MR JAMES G. BERESFORD

The village was shocked to learn of the death of Mr James G. Beresford at the February regular meeting of Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201. He collapsed and died almost immediately while reading the correspondence.

Mr Beresford was a well-known figure in the village, and took an active interest in several local organisations. He came to Muirkirk from Auchinleck Gas Works in 1931 as Local Water Engineer, a position he held for 16 years. He took an active interest in the Co-operative movement, and for a long number of years was a member of the Board of Management of Muirkirk Co-operative Society.

Mr Beresford was Worthy Patron of O.E.S. Wellwood Chapter, No. 159, and held the post of Treasurer in this body for some years, as well as being a treasurer of Muirkirk Preceptory. He founded the present local Loyal Orange Lodge twenty-four years ago and was its first WorthyMaster. He received a presentation for 45 years’ service in the Order only the other Saturday.

He was also a past Secretary of Muirkirk Bowling Club and a President of Muirkirk Bridge Association.

He was a keen bowler, and his name was regularly in the prize-list at Muirkirk Bowling Club. He also had the honour of skipping the local Co-operative rink in 1946 when they won the SCWS Bowling Trophy. The successful rink was:—James G. Beresford (skip), Norman McKenzie, Hugh Love, and Thomas Fulton. Several years later he gained custody of the trophy again with the following rink:—James G. Beresford (skip). David Masterton, James Masterton, and David Shaw.

Mr Beresford also took an interest in Muirkirk Angling Association, and in 1963 won the Veterans’ Trophy.

James Beresford gave a life-time of service to Freemasonry. Originally a member of Lodge Boswell St. James, Auchinleck, which he joined in 1914, and he occupied the position of Master of the Lodge from 1927-29. He came to Muirkirk in 1931, and was affiliated to Lodge St. Thomas in 1933, and held the post of Secretary for 32 years. The highlight of his career came in 1961 when he was made an Honorary Grand Bible Bearer of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Then two months later he was made an Honorary Member of Lodge St. James (Kilwinning), Tarbolton, No. 135—The Mother Lodge of Robert Burns.

Mr Beresford, who was born in Glenmavis, was for some years back the caretaker of the Masonic Hall, and he was a very familiar figure in our midst. He was 84 years of age

TRANSFER OF LICENCE

The Licence for the Masons Arms Hotel was transferred to Mr William Duncan, Master Butcher, Edinburgh. Mrs Lang, who has been in the Hotel for the past three years, will be leaving shortly to join her husband in Uganda, West Africa.

HONOUR FOR BILL SHANKLY

Glenbuck-born Bill Shankly, Manager of the extraordinarily successful Liverpool F.C., was awarded the title of outstanding manager in English League football for the past season. We congratulate Bill on this honour, which incidentally carries with it an award of £500.

MANAGER RETIRES

Mr Thomas Fulton, recently retired after 51 years service with Muirkirk Co-operative Society, and who has been managing Secretary for the past 28 years, and the occasion was marked by a presentation in the Boardroom.

MUIRKIRK JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Dux of 2nd Year (John Wallace Medal presented by Mrs Rutherford)—Margaret T. Archibald.

Senior Sports Championship:

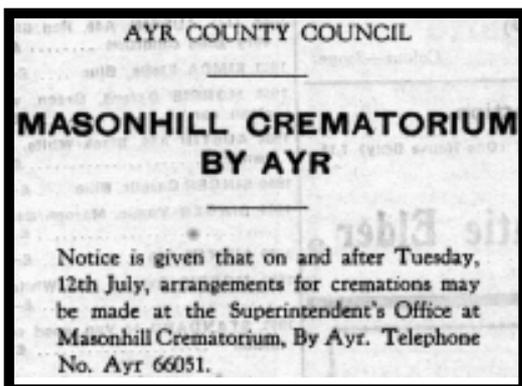
Boys—Hugh McL. Wyper; Girls—Mary G. M. Smith.

THE BIG STORM (13th August)

Saturday's heavy rainstorm brought its share of damage, and about 9 p.m. after a day of continuous torrential rain, motorists were in trouble and a number of cars were temporarily stuck with the flood water at various points. The trouble spots, so far as Muirkirk was concerned, were on the Douglas Road beyond Airdsgreen, in the dip beyond Wellwood Bridge near the electricity station, and at Greenockmains, where the water was four feet deep. Good work by the local Police and others helped to get vehicles moving again, but the really big flooding occurred between 2 and 4 a.m. on Sunday, when roads and fields were inundated by a raging torrent. We understand that some livestock was lost in low-lying fields and part of the foundations of the new bridge leading into Kames Colliery was swept away making the bridge impassable. Trees were swept down river and one large one from Kameshill was washed down river to block the road at Kames Farm and had to be sawn to clear the roadway. Damages to bridges in the Glespin district closed the Muirkirk-Douglas Road to traffic, and while a shuttle service by 'buses from both sides, with passengers walking across fields at the affected spot, kept things moving temporarily, the road was still closed for ordinary traffic at the time of writing on Tuesday afternoon.

OBITUARY

The death was announced on 30th August of Mr Andrew Brown at Lancaster. Andrew (familarly known as Barnie), was well known to local residents, and was brought up in the village. He was quite a personality in his way, and will be well remembered by football fans as the Juniors' linesman for a number of years.

**POSTMASTER'S RETIRAL**

Mr Thomas Rorrison, Postmaster at Muirkirk Post Office, retires in September, and his successor at Muirkirk will be Mr W. J. M. McCall, of Ayr.

Mr and Mrs Rorrison came to Muirkirk from Bank Post Office in 1931, and over their long span of thirty-five years of service in Muirkirk, there can be few inhabitants who in some way or another did not come into contact with him..

Although duty bound most of the time, Mr Rorrison was one of the enthusiasts who restarted the Junior Football Club in 1937, when the old pitch was turfied, and in fact he was secretary of the Club at that time. Many a local organisation has benefited by his practical support and we cannot let the occasion pass without paying a special tribute to his good lady, whose cheerfulness, patience, and ever-willing service behind the P.O. counter will long be remembered.

ANOTHER CUP FOR MUIRKIRK

The final of the Ayrshire Masonic Bowling Trophy competition was played at Muirkirk in September, and Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, had the distinction of winning the trophy for the second year in succession. It was a keen and closely-contested match throughout and it was only at the last end that Muirkirk asserted their superiority over their opponents from Beith. The Muirkirk rink was composed of Robert Holland, James Leslie, William Rae, and Francis Lochhead (skip).

ABERFAN

Since last weekend and the terrible tragedy at Aberfan, our thoughts and hearts have been very close to the stricken Welsh mining village.

There is a great affinity between mining communities, no matter where they may be, and in offering our humble word of sympathy, we pray that the bereaved may be sustained by the characteristic faith and unflinching courage in this time of disaster that we know so well.

THE LATE MR JAMES STRICKLAND

The death occurred recently of Mr James Strickland of Prestwick. He was 87 years of age. Mr Strickland, a Muirkirk man, was well known in mining circles throughout Scotland and the North of England. He started his mining career in Muirkirk, and from 1918 until 1924, he was Manager at the Haig Colliery at Whitehaven in Cumberland. After a short spell in Northern Ireland, he returned to Galston, and finally to Houldsworth Colliery, Patna, where he was for nine years.

While at Whitehaven he was presented with the Certificate of the Carnegie Hero Fund Trustees in recognition of the part he played in the explosion at the Haig Pit, when 39 lives were lost.

Mr Strickland, whose chief interests were in music and gardening—although he sometimes dabbled in rhyme and some of his verses appeared in our columns—is survived by his wife two sons, and two daughters.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

Professor of Applied Geology



Mr ALEXANDER KERR PRINGLE, B.Sc.

Mr Alexander Kerr Pringle, B.Sc., Reader in Geology and Mineralogy at Aberdeen University has been appointed to the new Chair of Applied Geology in the department of Mining Engineering at Strathclyde University from 1st January, 1967.

Mr Pringle was born in Muirkirk and educated locally before going on to Kilmarnock Academy and Glasgow University, where he graduated B.Sc. in Geology with first class honours.

In his earlier career he worked in West Africa on general mineral prospecting and the mining of gold-bearing alluvials on behalf of the Sierra Leone Development Co. He later did exploration and exploitation work in Britain, Persia, Australia, and New Guinea.

After service with the Royal Engineers in the Second World War, Mr Pringle returned to the oil industry, and was engaged in the search for oil in Scotland and England until 1946, when he joined the Department of Geology and Mineralogy at Aberdeen University.

A REMINDER OF HOME

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—As a matter of local interest, I myself am late of Muirkirk, but with strong feelings for my native village. Being a London-Scot for 17 years, I still have that soft spot for Muirkirk.

This goes for a thought for to-day. Only last week I was doing my usual routine of work, and not in the best of moods. I had to go across Brixton Road—then my day was made. As I crossed over I saw a truck with the name “Rowe of Muirkirk” on it. Yes, sir, that made my day—it made me feel that Muirkirk was not so very far away.—Yours,

JOHN MUIR

London.

**STORE DIVIDEND—
1/6 per £ on Purchases**

**CLOSURE OF E.U. CONGREGATIONAL
UNION CHURCH**

On Sunday, 11th December, Rev. Matthew Sullivan, B.A., of Cumnock Congregational Church, officiated at the closing services of Muirkirk Congregational Church.

The E.U. Church in Muirkirk was founded in 1854 by followers of the Rev. James Morison, who had taken a courageous stand against the Calvinistic doctrines then so prevalent. His converts were known as Morisonians, and their original meeting place was at the foot of the Glasgow Road, in the Hall now owned by the Christian Brethren (recently converted into a house by James Leslie). The Church was built in 1893, and after a bazaar was held in Glasgow to raise funds, the Church was opened free of debt. The manse was built a short time afterwards.

A Congregational Church existed in Muirkirk many years before, as one of the Statistical Accounts, published in the late 18th century, mentions the existence of an Independent Church at Garronhill. Unhappily, no records can now be traced of this congregation.

The Church has had several ministers in its history, and unfortunately there were no ministries of long duration. Rev. William Connacher was at Muirkirk from 1919 to 1926, and on his death he was interred in Muirkirk Cemetery. Rev. John B. Wilson (1933-35) is now a leading minister in Scottish Congregationalism. Rev. Arthur Robertson (1945-51) is now minister at Cruden Bay in Aberdeenshire. Rev. William B. Stewart (1952-58) is now retired and living in Balmaclennan, Castle Douglas. The last Minister was the Rev. Henry Vigors, now minister at Macduff, Banffshire.

There are still families in Muirkirk who are descended from founder members. Tribute should be paid to the late John Wylie, who in his time was President, Elder, Treasurer and always a faithful servant of the Wee Kirk. Mrs Margaret Clark was until her recent death at over 90, a lifelong and devoted member of the Church. Other members of founder families who have passed on in recent years include the Misses Leslie and Mrs Girvan. Mention might also be made of Mr John Ross, who was constant in his attendance at Church until his death at well over 80.

Thus the Wee Kirk in Muirkirk reaches the end of its long history. The cause is the all -too prevalent combination of mounting costs, shortage of candidates for the ministry, and depopulation. For too long it has fallen to the lot of a small but valiant band of faithful followers to keep this cause alive, and now that they have been compelled to give up the unequal task the community must pay tribute to their courage and steadfastness.

The group to whom we refer are President Mr S. Sloan and Managers Mrs Shankly (Secretary), Miss McSkimming (Treasurer), Mr W. Rae, Mr W. Park, Mr S. Sloan, and Mrs W. Wylie, along with Mrs S. Sloan, organist. Last, but by no means least is Mr T. Drife, who, until his recent appointment at Beith, give yeoman service as Treasurer, Elder, Manager, and Joint Organist.

Metropolitan Police — Ayrshire Man Appointed**SUPERINTENDENT LEITH**

Mr Philip Thomas Leith, who spent all his early life in Muirkirk, has recently been promoted Superintendent in the Metropolitan Police, and will be in charge of Walthamstow Sub-Division covering large areas of East London and part of Essex.

He was actually born at Dundee in 1922, but moved as a baby to Glasgow, and then from an early age he, his brother, and three sisters were brought up by a foster mother, Mrs McDade, formerly of New Terrace, Muirkirk.

He went to St. Thomas' School, which he left at 15 to become a miner at Kames Colliery.

From 1941 till 1946 he served in the Royal Air Force as an L.A.C. fitter, and saw service in West Africa.

On leaving the Forces he joined the Metropolitan Police. He was promoted Sergeant in 1952, Station Sergeant in 1955, Inspector in 1958, Chief Inspector in 1964, and now Superintendent. Most of his service has been in South-East and East London.

FOOTBALL (Season 1965—66)

Muirkirk Juniors got away to a flier in the new season with a fine win over Auchinleck Talbot, scoring three goals without reply at Ladeside Park. The team was—Pearson; Burley, Hodgart; Gaw, Miller, Scott; McIntosh, Davidson, Mitchell, Young, Riggans.

However their League form was to prove very erratic, and they lost seven League games before registering their second win, beating Whitletts 2—0.

They fared much better in the cup-ties and managed to get to the fourth round of the West of Scotland Cup, when after travelling to Renfrew to gain a goal-less draw, they blow it at Ladeside in the replay, losing by 4—0.

They had a bye in the Scottish Cup first round, and were very unlucky in the 2nd round ballot, when they were drawn to travel to the holders, Linlithgow Rose. They put up a good fight, but eventually lost 6—2. Team:—Pearson; Burley, Gillies; Gaw, Miller, Scott; A. Young, Davidson, Devlin, D. Young, McIntosh.

In the semi-final of the Irvine & District Cup they lost heavily 5—0 to Hurlford United.

All in all, a better season for the Juniors, with perhaps a brighter prospect for next season.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1966**BIRTHS**

GALLOWAY.—To Mr and Mrs Sam Galloway (Mary Easton), on 3rd April; a daughter.

ANDERSON.—To Mr and Mrs Willie Anderson on 14th April; a son.

SAMSON.—To Mr and Mrs Andrew Samson (Agnes Smith) on 5th June; a daughter.

HIGGINS.—To Mr and Mrs James Higgins (Elizabeth Mackin) on 23rd June; a daughter.

NICOLSON.—To Mr and Mrs Alec Nicolson (Janette Rowe) on 28th July; a son.

MITCHELL.—To Mr and Mrs Blyth Mitchell (Nora Baillie) on 4th October; a son.

LITTLE.—To Mr and Mrs Roger Little (Mary Guthrie) on 28th October; a son.

GAW.—To Mr and Mrs David Gaw (Mary Masterton) on 4th December; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

MALCOLM STEWART to ELIZABETH BRADFORD on 22nd January.

ANDREW SAMSON to AGNES SMITH on 29th January.

DOMINICK BROWN to ELIZABETH PATERSON on 19th February.

JOHN McCULLOCH to MOLLY BURNSIDE on 9th March.

JOHN DOUGLAS to ANNE McSKIMMING on 19th March.

JAMES GAW to GRACE WILSON on 2nd April.

RAYMOND FOREMAN to SUSANNAH BROWN on 25th June.

THOMAS LAIRD to JEAN DICKIE on 15th June.

JAMES SNEDDON to MARGARET DALZIEL on 24th June.

AILEEN FORD to WILLIAM HUGHES on 16th July.

ANGUS WALKER to JESSIE STEELE on 20th July.

CRAIG WOODBURN to VIOLET PATON on 28th July.

JOHN RAMSAY to JOAN WILSON on 16th September.

WILLIAM DODDS to HELEN HAZLE on 15th October.

PETER WILLIAMS to MARGT. RAMAGE on 28th October.

JAMES WARD to SHEENIE BRODIE on 12th November

DEATHS

TELFER.—At Irvine on 24th January, Janet McCartney, 21 Burns Avenue; aged 87 years.

HAMILTON.—At Dunstable on 30th January, Janet McDonald; aged 75 years.

McCARTNEY.—At Edinburgh on 28th January, Thomas McCartney; aged 66 years.

McDOUGALL.—At Ballochmyle on 1st February, Catherine Findlay, 17 Harwood Avenue; aged 65 years.

- SAMSON.—At Kilmarnock on 31st January, Elspeth Wallace; aged 50 years.
- SHORT.—In Nova Scotia on 19th January, John Short (late of Glenbuck); aged 71 years.
- SUNDERLAND.—At Sauchrie, Smallburn, on 1st February, Miss Jean Sunderland; aged 83 years.
- FLEMING.—At 25 Middlefield Drive on 4th February, Elizabeth Rodie; aged 88 years.
- GOLDIE.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd February, James Goldie, Cunningham Cottage; aged 66 years.
- LEITCH.—At Ballochmyle on 9th February, Agnes Leslie, 131 Henderson Drive; aged 48 years.
- JOHNSTONE.—At Ballochmyle on 18th February, Mary Johnstone; aged 82 years.
- TAYLOR.—On 15th February, Janet Hendry; aged 61 years.
- BERESFORD.—At Masonic Hall on 24th February, James G. Beresford, 2 Wellwood Crescent; aged 84 years.
- LOGGIE.—At Ballochmyle on 24th February, Adam Loggie, 20 Middlefield Drive; aged 72 years.
- BARR.—At Ballochmyle on 14th March, David Barr; aged 75 years.
- BROWN.—At 25 Wellwood Street on 11th March, Elizabeth Wallace; aged 82 years.
- FORSYTH.—At Glenafton on 10th March, John Forsyth, 58 Main Street; aged 81 years.
- CAMPBELL.—At 31 Burns Avenue on 16th March, William Campbell; aged 64 years.
- GAW.—At Ballochmyle on 18th March, William Gaw, 24 Lovedale Crescent; aged 57 years.
- SAMSON.—At Kilmarnock on 26th March, Agnes Aaron; aged 73 years.
- STRATHEARN.—At Ballochmyle on 4th April, Catherine Marshall.
- MITCHELL.—At Ailsa on 7th April, David Mitchell, 45 Wardlaw Avenue; aged 74 years.
- BAIN.—At Irvine on 15th April, George Murdoch Bain (fruiterer), 18 Meanlour Drive.
- THOMAS.—At Ballochmyle (as the result of an accident) on 14th April, Robert Thomas, 33 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 4 years.
- WYLIE.—At 58 Colthart Drive on 15th April, Christina Wylie; aged 51 years.
- NEILSON.—At 86 Main Street on 18th May, Jessie McLeod; aged 75 years.
- BEGG.—At Ballochmyle (as the result of an accident) on 27th April, Elias Begg; aged 25 years.
- BROWN.—At Edinburgh on 10th May, Tom Brown; aged 45 years.
- CRAWFORD.—At Ballochmyle on 20th May, Marion Dalziel, 23 Miller Road; aged 73 years.
- PATERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd June, Margaret Paterson, 7 Meanlour Drive; aged 46 years.
- BAIN.—At 44 Hareshaw Crescent on 11th June, William Bain; aged 65 years.
- PARK.—On 5th June, Alexander (Sandy) Park.
- GILFILLAN.—At Ballochmyle on 21st June, Janet Williamson, 40 Glasgow Road; aged 84 years.
- LORIMER.—At Kingussie on 19th June, Adeline Strath.
- SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 16th June, Helen Dempster, 27 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 74 years.
- SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 19th June, Thomas Samson, 24 Wellwood Avenue; aged 65 years.
- HILL.—At Greenockdyke on 3rd July, Alexander Hill; aged 46 years.
- RODGER.—At 25th July, Robert Rodger.
- ANGUS.—At 28 Middlefield Drive on 28th July, Janet Murray; aged 73 years.
- WILSON.—At Ayr on 6th August, Walter Wilson, 21 Pagan Walk; aged 68 years.
- BROWN.—At 72 Henderson Drive on 16th August, David Brown; aged 72 years.
- MONTGOMERY.—At Ballochmyle on 12th August, Samuel Montgomery, 38 Pagan Walk; aged 53 years.
- McDYRE.—At Derby on 27th August, Patrick McDyre; aged 45 years.
- BROWN.—At Lancaster on 30th August, Andrew Brown; aged 56 years.
- MORRISON.—At Heathfield on 19th September, John Morrison, 20 Colthart Drive; aged 57 years.
- WILSON.—At 27 Miller Road on 16th September, Jean Russell; aged 44 years.
- HALLIDAY.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd October, Matilda Halliday, 14 Victoria Buildings.
- WARD.—At Ayr on 29th September, William Ward, 12 Smallburn Drive; aged 57 years.
- MURDOCH.—At 124 Henderson Drive on 6th October, Jemima Dempster; aged 62 years.
- GUTHRIE.—At "Norwood," Wellwood Street, on 12th October, John Guthrie; aged 97 years.
- McFEGAN.—At Vancouver Island on 3rd September, Alexander McFegan (late of Muirkirk), aged 84 years.
- DUKE.—At Wolverhampton on 16th October, John Duke, aged 70 years.
- HIBBERD.—At Inverurie on 9th November, James Hibberd (late of Kirkgreen).
- McADAM.—At 28 Colthart Drive on 14th November, John McAdan; aged 69 years.
- ANDERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 17th November, Hugh Anderson, 6b Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 73 years.
- MACKIN.—At Johnstone, David Mackin; aged 67 years.
- MARSHALL.—At Burnage on 19th November, William Marshall; aged 64 years.

TOWLE.—At Seafield on 24th November, David Towle, 8 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 4 years.

DAVIDSON.—At 8 Stoneyhill Avenue on 30th November, Mary Mathieson; aged 69 years.

MORRISON.—At Glasgow on 4th December, Jean Wylie (Woodside Cottage), aged 83 years.

JOHNSTONE.—On 8th December, John Johnstone, 18 Wellwood Street.

JOHNSTONE.—At Ballochmyle on 8th December, Neil Johnstone, 121 Henderson Drive; aged 61 years.

MIRREY.—At Driffield on 6th December, Wiliam Mirrey.

MCLEOD.—At Victoria Infirmary on 14th December, James McLeod; aged 17 years.

DUNLOP.—At Heathfield, Glasgow Road, on 25th December, Thomas Dunlop; aged 72 years.

HAMILTON.—At Falkirk on 29th December, Alexander Hamilton (Clydesdale Bank); aged 58 .

FATALITY AT KAMES

On Wednesday afternoon (27th April) of last week about five o'clock, a young engineer, Elias Begg (25), younger son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Begg, 89 Henderson Drive, was seriously injured by a runaway mobile pump while at work underground at Kames Colliery. The injured man was conveyed to Ballochmyle Hospital, where he died later in the evening. The whole community was shocked and grieved to learn of the accident, as Elias was a very popular young man in our midst. He was a talented singer, and with his brother Jim had entertained us very pleasantly on many occasions. He was a Lieutenant in the 1st Muirkirk Boys' Brigade Company, and held a similar rank in the Lifeboys, having been associated with the movement since his early boyhood days. He was also a member of Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, and had only recently been elected Chaplain of the Lodge. A very large concourse of mourners paid tribute at the funeral to Muirkirk Cemetery on Saturday.

PROMINENT SPORTSMEN

Local celebrities with a sporting connection are bang in the news these days.

Willie Shankly

First and foremost comes Willie Shankly, Manager of Liverpool F.C., whose club have just clinched the English League Championship for the second time in three years, and they also won the English Cup last season, and it will be remembered that Willie has taken his Club right up through the Second Division Championship to more recent honours, a record which will take some equalling. Now the Liverpool sights are on the European Cup Winners Cup, in the final of which they play in Glasgow.

Eric Caldow

Then at the weekend it was announced that a former Muirkirk Junior, Eric Caldow, was severing his connection with Glasgow Rangers after 15 glorious years. Eric, who went from Muirkirk as a boy in 1951, has carved a niche for himself at Ibrox as one of the all-time Rangers' "greats."

What a record he has, too. His honours include five Scottish League medals, two Scottish Cup winners medals, 40 full international caps, and 13 League honours. Eric, who was the Rangers and Scotland captain till he broke his leg at Wembley three seasons ago, has been captaining Rangers reserve side this season, and no doubt will soon be making his presence felt in some First Division Club.

Bobby Adamson

And the third sportsman, of whom we have news this week, is Bobby Adamson, of Townhead Street, Cumnock, who plays with St. Mirren, and was a scoring right-winger with Muirkirk Juniors before he took the senior ticket. Bobby has been awarded the "Player of the Year" Trophy, presented by Paisley and District Club, Toronto, Canada, and along with this honour goes a handsome wrist watch.

Bobby played with Dundee, Raith Rovers and Greenock Morton before joining up with the Paisley (Scotland) Club.

Co-operative Womens' Guild Trip at Blackpool, 1947



CHAPTER SIXTY

(1967)

INDUSTRY-FOR-MUIRKIRK COMMITTEE

This local organisation was well to the fore during 1967, and worked really hard raising funds and in a variety of ways tried to encourage industrialists to set up here in Muirkirk, and after their success last year with the opening of the Muirtext factory, hopes were high.

Let the columns tell their own story.

COMMITTEE START NEW DRIVE

Rev. J. P. Linkens presided at a meeting of this body, when the initial business was given over to the reconstitution of the Committee.

Mr W. C. Beggs, Clydesdale Bank was elected Chairman in place of Mr Matt. Lochhead, who will, however, continue to serve on the Committee. Mr Martin Mackin was elected Vice-Chairman; Mr James Currie as Secretary; and Mr James Thomson as Treasurer. Committee—Rev. John Linkens, B.D., Messrs Thomas Shaw, Andrew Moreland, (County Councillor), Matt. Lochhead (District Councillor), Dick Ramsay, Mrs Nan Fulton (District Councillor), and Mrs George Bradford.

It was agreed to invite Muirkirk Traders' Association to appoint a representative for the Committee.

The former E.U. Congregational Church building at Glasgow Road was discussed with a view to its suitability for industrial purposes.

It was also agreed to write the East Kilbride Development Corporation, who are sending an official to discuss industrial matters at a meeting with the Muirkirk officials.

2nd March Issue

It was decided to ask the County Council for permission to erect notices advertising industrial sites in Muirkirk.

It was reported that negotiations are progressing regarding the former E.U. Church.

The Committee also agreed to hold another dance to raise funds for publicity purposes.

March 30 Issue

A communication had been received from the Board of Trade stating that they would consider the possibility of building an advance factory at Muirkirk.

A decision was taken to intensify the publicity campaign for Muirkirk within the next few weeks. This would entail the expenditure of a considerable sum of money, and it was hoped to meet this outlay through the medium of the forthcoming dance and other schemes.

The possibility of a caravan site at Muirkirk was also discussed.

THE CAMPAIGN IS INTENSIFIED

(April 20 Issue)

Intensifying their campaign to attract employment to Muirkirk, the Committee are enlisting the medium of TV advertising, and on STV the following two Fridays industrialists will be asked to consider coming to or expanding in Muirkirk.

In addition, almost 1,000 letters have been despatched to established firms drawing attention to the TV coverage.

In preparing all possible information, it is most important that an up-to-date census of all present and prospective male labour who would be prepared to work in factories at Muirkirk should be obtained with all possible speed.

PRESS CONFERENCE

(April 27 Issue)

As an important part of their campaign the Committee held a very successful press conference in the School last week, when a goodly number of national and weekly newspapers were represented, as well as BBC TV.

The Chairman, Mr W. B. C. Beggs, made a very comprehensive statement outlining the aims of the Committee, and showing the potential of Muirkirk. Mr Beggs said the local traders and people in general are fully behind the Committee, and by a dance and raffle and other donations, funds have been, and are being provided to finance the publicity campaign.

As a result of the conference Muirkirk was well in the news at the weekend, with a TV spot on BBC on Thursday. The STV advert. appeared on Friday night and will again be shown next week.

Muirkirk rounded off its publicity campaign with a 4-page supplement in the "Glasgow Herald" on Friday, 6th May, and this was a satisfactory effort, putting Muirkirk in a good light, and being well illustrated with local photographs.

MUIRKIRK ON TELLY

Muirkirk's recent publicity campaign has extended beyond the central belt of Scotland. We quote from an Aberdeenshire paper, in which a columnist, under the above heading, expresses himself thus:

"Here and there about the country there must be 'village Miltons' and unhonoured geniuses who think up the basic ideas; for every now and then we are jolted by the signs of dynamic action by some obscure and otherwise unremarkable village or small community—generally completely unsung and unadvertised—with an idea worthy of greater things. Such a lead as that promoted by the little Ayrshire village of Muirkirk. The active and energetic citizens of that place have banded together to advertise the potential of Muirkirk as a base for new industry. Such a course of action would have been praiseworthy if such a city as Glasgow or Aberdeen, Inverness or Dundee had come up with it; but for a mere 'speck on the map' like Muirkirk to advance the scheme deserves the good wishes—and more, the wholehearted backing—of all interested concerns."

WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Muirkirk Working Men's Club was officially formed at a meeting on 26th March. The following officials were elected:—

President—Mr Michael Boland; Vice-President—Mr George Bradford; Secretary—Mr James Taylor; Minute Secretary—Mr James L. Davidson; Treasurer—Mr James Murphy. Committee—Messrs Hugh McGarey, Thomas Lennox, jnr., George Park, James Park, David Smith, James Davidson, William Dempster, Thomas Short, John Samson, George McDade, Robert Stitt, Thomas Barrie, Hugh Johnstone.

WINDFALLS FOR PARISH CHURCH

The Paris Church Minister reported that two fine financial gifts had been received on behalf of the Church, and further details of these make very interesting reading.

The first letter came from 88-years-old Dr George Lang, emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Alabama. In it was a cheque for 1,000 dollars to be used "as your session may direct."

Dr Lang went on to explain that he was born at Nether Wellwood Row where the Electricity Sub-Station now stands, and which was also the site of the old Wellwood School.

That was way back on February 22, 1879. His father was a miner, and when coal was discovered in Alabama he emigrated to the U.S.A. with four other Scots to develop the new coal-fields. Eventually he opened a pit of his own and was helped in the running of it by his two eldest sons, John and Robert.

The youngest son and writer of the letter, George, read for the ministry at the South Western Presbyterian and Columbia Universities. After studying for a time at Edinburgh University he was asked to take the Chair of Philosophy at the University of Alabama, where he remained until his retirement.

During his time in Edinburgh, Dr Lang visited Muirkirk—and Wellwood, of course. On his last visit all the buildings, including the school, had disappeared. Dr Lang was baptised in Muirkirk Established Church and three of his brothers who died in childhood are buried in the churchyard.

BEQUEST

The second letter was a formal communication from a lawyer announcing that Mr William Mirrey, who died in Yorkshire in December last, and left the Church £500.

Mr Mirrey, a retired insurance agent and former church elder, lived in Middlefield Drive until the death of his wife, after which he had lived in England with a member of his family.

At a recent meeting, a grateful Session decided to devote Dr Lang's legacy to the general good of the congregation, and the £500 from Mr Mirrey was added to the fund to buy a new organ, a much-needed instrument in view of the condition of the present one.

GENT.'S HAIRDRESSING

It was announced that as from 9th January, the Hairdressing business formerly carried on by Mr James Pringle, will be taken over by Mr Tom Brown.

ACHIEVEMENT

The recent announcement of the appointment of Mr A. K. Pringle as Professor of Applied Geology at Strathclyde University has brought out the observation that Muirkirk has now no less than three Professors in Glasgow, the other two being Professor George Hibberd of the Chair of Mining at the same University, and, at the Royal Infirmary, Professor Tom Symington of the Pathology Department of Glasgow University.

Naturally, this is extremely satisfying to Muirkirk folks, no matter where they may be, and, indeed, it may well constitute a record for any village of comparable size.

LOCAL CONNECTION

It was interesting to note a reference to our own parish in an article, "In Ayrshire—Without Burns," by James Anderson Russell, which appeared in a recent issue of "Scottish Co-operator," and we feel that the following excerpt will jog Glenbuck memories in particular.

"My own connections with Ayrshire are quite strong, and I have always been greatly drawn to the county, even without the impulse of Burns. The connection is strongest with the parish of Muirkirk. Most people probably approach that mining centre from the A74 at the Douglas road-end. A few miles then suffice to bring you to the Lanark-Ayr border at Glenbuck, but with Muirkirk but four miles further on.

"A more exhilarating entry, however, can be made by coming over the long stretch of moors from Strathaven, passing half-way Dungavel Lodge, the former shooting lodge of the Duke of Hamilton. It was for here that Hess was making in 1940 when he had to come down at Eaglesham for want of fuel."

"A far cry from those stirring uplands to the gaunt prison of Spandau, before which I mused a little when in West Berlin a few years ago. The Lodge is now a training centre under the National Coal Board."

"Many a time I have come this way. In my youth it was by cycle, though I recall back in the first war, when on summer holidays from school, I had my first run in a motor car. This marvellous vehicle made the return by Loudoun Hill and Darvel, and was a thrill indeed."

"Muirkirk certainly seemed out of the world, and still creates that impression by its comparative isolation from the main centres of the County; the suggestion was once facetiously made that the easiest way to deal with it would be to transfer it to Lanarkshire!"

"It was my great-grandfather, Robert Russell, of Leadhills, who went to Glenbuck, where he became toll-bar keeper and inn-keeper, acquiring also an interest in a pit. His son, in turn, married Margaret Anderson in Muirkirk, giving me my middle name. However, the name most of all associated here is probably the unique and glorious one for a football team—the Glenbuck Cherrypickers"

FOUND DEAD

The news that Mr and Mrs Robert Dempster, a well-known Muirkirk couple, had been found dead in bed at their home in Dalmellington, caused quite a wave of sadness in the district. Mr Dempster, who had been in ill-health for some time, had been Manager of Dalmellington Co-operative Society for almost seven years, and had just resigned for health reasons. He served his time as a grocer with Muirkirk Co-operative Society and was a Branch Manager here and also with Douglas Provident Co-operative Society before going to Dalmellington. In her younger days Mrs Dempster was also an employee of Muirkirk Co-operative Society.

THE DERBY CAFE

Mr and Mrs M. Walker beg to announce that the above shop will Close when present stocks are exhausted. They would like at this time to thank their many friends and customers for their patronage over the years.

MUIRKIRK SECONDARY SCHOOL

Dux of Primary Department—Andrew Mackin.

Dux of 2nd Year—Martin Mackin.

Primary Sports Championships:

Boys—Douglas Wilson Girls—Ellen Anderson

Intermediate Sports Championships:

Boys—Daniel Masterton Girls—Davina Park

Senior Sports Championships:

Boys—Brian Wilson Girls—Cynthia Hacking

SEVEN SCOTTISH PITS THREATENED WITH CLOSURE —KAMES ON THE LIST

It was announced in August that seven pits in the West of Scotland are threatened with closure.

3,000 men in all are involved, and the pits named are Fauldhead, Auchlochan, Beoch, Kames, and Overtown, Gartshore No 9 and 11, and Wester Auchengeich, Lanarkshire.

Mr Michael McGahey, vice-president of the Scottish N.U.M., who gave the names of the pits after a meeting of the Scottish N.U.M. Executive, said that local talks would be held at the seven pits.

“If we see it possible to improve the position we will fight for the retention of these collieries,” he said.

This sort of discussion in the past had almost inevitably been the prelude to closure.

RETIRAL

Miss Isabel O. Baird, a daughter of the late Major Dugald Baird and Mrs Baird, at one time of Kameshill, and Matron of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh for the past sixteen years, has retired.

GAS APPOINTMENT

Mr David Paterson, manager at Keith Gas Works, has been appointed manager at Muirkirk Gas Works.

THE LATE MR JAMES McCARTNEY

Another of our best-known and most respected old residents, Mr James McCartney, of 29 Wellwood Street, passed away on 28th April. He was 76 years of age.

A member of an old Muirkirk family, who at one time resided at the Waulk Mill, up beside the “Leishaw Scree,” Jimmy was well-known to all local residents and made a worthy contribution to the life of the neighbourhood, and particularly the youth.

On 22nd February, 1922, he took up duties as janitor, attendance officer, and Gymn Instructor at Furnace Road School, and after 28 years in that capacity, he became District Attendance Officer, a post he held till his retirement in October, 1955.

Mr McCartney took the Physical Recreation classes at the evening school for over twenty years, while for a number of years he was Captain of the local Boys’ Brigade Coy., and during the war years he was instructor of the local Air Training Corps.

He was keenly interested in football, and he ran the school football team for many years and with remarkable success, including seven successes in the League championship. A number of cups came to Muirkirk during these years, and in one season alone the school team annexed no fewer than five trophies.

MUIRKIRK’S FOUR PROFESSORS

An interesting footnote to the foregoing is that Dr Lang now makes the fourth living professor to come out of Muirkirk, joining Professors George Hibberd, Kerr Pringle, and Tom Symington.

And, it has been pointed out, Muirkirk’s tally may be even more.



WILLIE LINDSAY (Railway Carrier)

A Description
of
Works, Machinery, Fixtures and Land
belonging to the
MUIRKIRK IRON COMPANY
1838

Through the courtesy of Mr H. H. Wilson, one of Muirkirk's most prominent sons and well known official of the National Coal Board, we have been favoured with a perusal of an old map and inventory of the property of the old Muirkirk Iron Company in November, 1838. We find this of intense interest, and think that Muirkirk folks, and especially the younger generation who cannot remember the old ironworks, should find the description interesting and revealing.

We quote:—

UNDERGROUND DEPARTMENT

1 Pumping Engine—The Steam Cylinder 66 inches diameter, 8 ft. stroke; Working Barrels, 14½ ins.; in diameter; Also 3 Boilers injection and other pipes and about 150 fathoms of 151 inch pipes in two columns, for drawing Water.

10 Pumping and Winding Gigs of various power, with Boilers, at the Coal and Ironstone Pits.

Cast Iron Pit Rails, about 1100 yds.

PIG IRON DEPARTMENT

4 Blast Furnaces, viz.: 2 Furnaces with Cast and Bridge Houses and Heating Apparatus; 1 Furnace with Cast and Bridge House, Filling Machine and Heating Apparatus; 1 Furnace recently erected with Cast House.

2 Blowing Engines, viz.: 1 Engine Double power Steam Cylinder, 4 ft. diameter, 8 ft. stroke; the Blast Cylinder 8 ft. diameter with about 400 yards of Pipes.

1 Engine, single power, the Steam Cylinder 57½ ins. in diameter, 6½ ft Stroke. The Blast Cylinder 6½ft diameter, with pipes for conveying the Blast to the Furnaces.

85 Ovens for Coking Coal, and 8 Kilns for Catching Iron Stone, with about 250 yards of 4- and 6-inch pipes for conveying water to the Ovens, and other Pipes and Plates in connection therewith.

BAR IRON DEPARTMENT

Steam Forge, with two Chafferies, a Hammer for Drawing Bars, and a Tilt Hammer for making uses and other articles, or for plating; driven by a double power Steam Engine; the Steam Cylinder 24 ins. diameter, 5 feet stroke.

Water Forge, with Two Chafferies and 5 Puddling Furnaces, Bar Iron and Bloom Yards, Cellars, &c. The Water Wheel, 20 ft. in diameter and 6 ft. broad, driving a single Hammer, a Hammer for drawing Bars, a set of Billeting Rulers, and Shears for Cropping Bars, &c.

Rolling Mill, with Chafferies, Water Wheel 24 feet diameter and 6 ft. broad, driving Rollers for finishing Bars, a Turning Lathe, and Shears for cutting Mill Bars, &c.

Fineries, viz.: 2 for preparing the Pig Iron.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cast and Malleable Rails, about 10,000 yards, for conveying the materials to the works.

Foundry, with Stoves, Air Furnaces, Cupola, Crane, &c.

Brick Stove and Kiln, Clay Mill, with Steam Engine and Boiler.

Smiths and Carpenters' Shops, with Woodyard, Shed, Sawpits, Cellars, Engineers' Office, &c.

Provisions and Clothes Store and Bakehouse.

Counting Houses, with Dwelling House above.

Workmen's Houses, built to accommodate 160 families, besides houses for 46 families, held on lease at moderate rents. The village of Muirkirk being contiguous to the Works, admits of additional accommodation for workmen.

Farming Premises, including Grieve's House, barn, loft, stables, byres. Milk House and Boiling Houses, Granaries, with Thrashing Mill, Straw Cutter and Churning Machine driven by a Water Wheel with iron pipes for conveying the water; also Boilers and apparatus for dressing food for horses and cattle.

The Farm consists of about 125 Imperial Acres of thoroughly drained land in a high state of cultivation, and intersected with thriving plantations.

Ground occupied by the Works, and other Houses in connexion.

WORKING MEN'S CLUB

It was announced in November that negotiations have reached the stage where a firm decision on the erection of Club premises in Muirkirk has now been made.

The building visualised is a brand new semi-timber structure of the industrial type, and will have a capacity of around 4,000 square feet, embracing a lounge, concert/dance hall, and a games room, along with the usual other appointments.

The site position has yet to be finalised, but it is expected that the Club will be situated in the Main Street.

**INCREASE IN PRICE OF
"THE ADVERTISER"**

Owing increased costs of production we are compelled to raise the price of "The Advertiser" to THREE-PENCE per copy.

The increase will take effect as from next week's issue, dated October, 5, 1967.

THE LATE MR ANDREW MORELAND

The whole community was grieved to hear of the sudden death on 27th August of our esteemed County Councillor, Mr Andrew Moreland, who passed away at 8 Garronhill, aged 52 years. He had been in failing health for some time.

Mr Moreland had served as our County Councillor for the past four years, and for a number of years before that he was a member of Cumnock District Council, and during his period of service he gained the esteem of fellow Councillors and the general public alike for his sincerity and integrity.

As a County Councillor he served on various Committees and Sub-Committees, and he worked on night shift so that he could fulfil his public commitments with the least possible expense to the authority.

He was identified with the Labour movement locally for a goodly number of years, and he was Chairman of Muirkirk Branch of the Labour Party. He was extremely interested in any cause of value to the community, and it can be truly said he gave his services at all times freely and with the good of the community at heart.

FOOTBALL (Season 1966-67)

The Juniors had their supporters full of optimism this season, and enjoyed one of their best spells for many years, and were a shade unlucky not to bring home some silverware.

A resounding 3—0 win at Beechwood Park against Talbot gave them the best possible start. The team was:—Pearson; Burley, Shields; Hynds, Miller, Newman; Rodgers, Davidson, Ferguson, Thomson, Kilday.

In the West of Scotland Cup they had a good run accounting for vale of Leven (3—2), Larkhall Thistle (5—1), only to lose narrowly by 3—2 away to Greenock.

In the 2nd Round replay of the Scottish Cup they beat Lugar Boswell 4—3 after a goal-less first game.

In the 2nd Round Johnstoneburgh were the visitors at Ladeside Park when the result was 1—1. Muirkirk did well to force a 2—2 draw in the replay. The second replay resulted in a 1—1 draw, and so the tie went to Meadow Park, where Muirkirk lost 3—2 despite a valiant display. Johnstoneburgh scored the winner from the penalty spot with only eight minutes left. Muirkirk had been leading 2—1 at the interval, but with Miller being suspended, the Ladeside team were not at full strength. Team—Pearson; Burley, Shield; Hynds, Short, Young; McIntosh, Thomson, Reid, Davidson, Rodgers.

Despite this disappointment, Muirkirk came back fighting, and there were some memorable games for the supporters to cherish, notably the drubbing of Talbot by 5—1, and a super 8—3 defeat of Cumnock, although the Townhead Park team got revenge in the semi-final of the Western League Cup, beating Muirkirk 3—1.

In the Irvine & District Cup Muirkirk deposed of Darvel 3—0 to book a place in the final, and hopes were high that at long last some silverware would come to Muirkirk, but it was not to be. Muirkirk drew 0—0 with Kilbirnie in the final, but in the replay they lost 2—1.

The supporters were disappointed, but nevertheless, felt they could look forward to the future with some optimism. Only time would tell!

LOCAL STATISTICS—1967**BIRTHS**

- McCALL.—To Mr and Mrs Alex. McCall (Margaret Bone) on 8th January; a daughter.
- MORRISON.—To Mr and Mrs William Morrison on 14th January; a son.
- STEWART.—To Mr and Mrs Malcolm Stewart (Elizabeth Bradford) on 5th February; a daughter.
- NEIL.—To Mr and Mrs David Neil on 22nd May; a son.
- HUGHES.—To Mr and Mrs William Hughes (Aileen Ford) on 21st June; a daughter.
- BRADFORD.—To Mr and Mrs George Bradford (Nancy Todd) on 12th August; a daughter.
- EASTON.—To Mr and Mrs Ronnie Easton (Agnes Orr) on 1st October; a daughter.
- BOLAND.—To Mr and Mrs Dick Boland (Caroline Graham) on 13th October; a daughter.
- HAMILTON.—To Mr and Mrs Robin Hamilton on 15th October; a daughter.
- JOHNSTONE.—To Mr and Mrs Hugh Johnstone (Betty Park) on 7th December; a daughter.
- McGARRY.—To Mr and Mrs Neil McGarry (Irene McCulloch) on 30th December.

MARRIAGES

- ROBERT McINTOSH to MARY PAXTON on 21st January.
- ROBIN HAMILTON to MARY MORRISON on 14th Feb.
- GEORGE SMITH to ALEXANDRIA FEARNESIDE on 23rd March.
- DONALD McKENZIE to ANN SMILLIE on 27th March.
- JOHN COLVILLE to MARION CRAWFORD on 18th March.
- THOMAS LUCAS to MARGARET SHAW on 1st April.
- ROBERT SDAMSON to JILL ROSS on 5th August.
- CHARLES AULD to MARGARET MARSHALL on 12th August
- JOHN BECK to NAN FINDLAY on 12th August.
- MARGARET McINTOSH to ARTHUR MULHALL on 12th August.
- JOHN HILL to PAULINE WRIGHTSON on 4th September.
- JOHN MASTERTON to ELIZABETH MUIR on 9th Sept.
- JOHN ROSS to VALERIE DUNCAN on 16th September.
- JOHN DEWAR to MARGT. MARSHALL on 15th Sept.
- ANDREW PATERSON to DOROTHY HANNAH on 30th September.
- JOHN WILSON to JEAN LIVINGSTONE on 23rd Sept.
- RONALD HAMILTON to JANETTE GIRDWOOD on 7th October.
- JOHN MILLAR to JOSE WRIGHT on 28th October.
- GEO. DUNNACHIE to MARGT. DALZIEL on 28th Oct.
- PETER FINDLAY to DOREEN ROWE on 11th November.
- DUNCAN McDOUGALL to JEAN BRADFORD on 11th November.

DEATHS

DORNAN.—In Canada on 3rd January, Norman Dornan, aged 79 years

YOUNG.—At 17 Hawkshaw Terrace on 4th January, Jeanie Bell, of 6 Pagan Walk; aged 61 years.

DALZIEL.—At Ballochmyle on 18th January, David Dalziel, aged 54 years.

McDONALD.—At Law Hospital on 16th January, Joan Robb, aged 79 years.

DAVIDSON.—At 9 Stitt Place on 23rd January, Jane Sellar; aged 82 years.

MACKIN.—At 52 Pagan Walk on 21st February, Brian Mackin.

McADAM.—At Paisley on 25th February, Robert McAdan, 28 Colthart Drive; aged 32 years.

MURDOCH.—At 30 Henderson Drive on 26th February, James Murdoch; aged 71 years.

PARK.—At Holmhead on 4th February, Mary Dewar, 37 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 88 years.

CANON.—At 3 Steven Crescent on 17th March, William Canon; aged 64 years.

KING.—At Glasgow on 20th March, Margaret Ferguson; aged 68 years.

MURDOCH.—At Ballochmyle on 17th March, Annie Bain, 36 Colthart Drive; aged 79 years.

SMITH.—At 32 Hawkshaw Terrace, James Smith; aged 64 years.

SAMSON.—At Kilmarnock on 23rd March, John Samson; aged 55 years.

WEIR.—At Larkhall on 26th March, Margaret Wylie; aged 92 years.

ROBB.—At 11 Victoria Buildings on 8th April, John Robb; aged 56 years.

MORELAND.—At Ballochmyle on 13th April, Marion Muir, 25 Wardlaw Avenue; aged 55 years.

LOGIE.—At Ballochmyle on 24th April, James Logie, 54 Wellwood Street; aged 89 years.

SYMINGTON.—At Kilmaurs on 21st April, Margaret Steven, aged 77 years.

McCARTNEY.—At Ballochmyle on 28th April, James McCartney, 29 Wellwood Street; aged 76 years.

MONTGOMERY.—At Knoweview, Main Street, on 30th April, Andrew Montgomery; aged 70 years.

GUTHRIE.—At 13 Wellwood Street on 18th May, Helen Gibson; aged 82 years.

PARK.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd May, David Park, 10 Henderson Drive; aged 50 years.

BAIN.—At Ballochmyle on 12th June, George Bain, 46 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 72 years.

BICKERTON.—At 22 Hawkshaw Terrace on 15th June, Thomas Bickerton; aged 68 years.

GILLEN.—At Ayr on 18th June, Susan Higgins, 54 Main Street; aged 83 years.

LOGGIE.—In U.S.A. on 15th June, Agnes Miller (formerly of Springhill Terrace); aged 80 years.

MENZIES.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd July, Thomas Menzies, 34 Colthart Drive; aged 65 years.

SAMSON.—At Stirling on 28th June, Robert Samson; aged 67 years.

YULE.—In Canada on 30th June, Robert Yule (late of Station Cottages, Glenbuck); aged 72 years.

LOVE.—At 17 Kirkgreen on 15th August, David Love; aged 72 years.

MANSFIELD.—At Wigan on 18th August, Joseph Mansfield; aged 58 years.

McLACHLAN-FLEMING.—At 11 Wellwood Avenue on 28th August, John McLachlan or Fleming; aged 91 years.

MORELAND.—At 8 Garronhill on 27th August, Andrew Moreland; aged 52 years.

NISBET.—Suddenly, as the result of an accident, on 27th August, Maira Nisbet, Woodend, Smallburn; aged 12 years.

BONE.—At 51 Wardlaw Avenue on 5th September, William Bone; aged 82 years.

FLEMING.—At Ballochmyle on 11th September, Andrew Fleming, 25 Middlefield Drive; aged 60 years.

MILLER.—At Ballochmyle on 27th September, James Miller; aged 64 years.

WADDELL.—At Belvidere on 30th September, Julia Leslie (late of Torhill).

CLARK.—At Mearnskirk on 4th October, John Clark; aged 52 years.

PATERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 16th October, James Paterson, 16 Henderson Drive; aged 62 years.

ROSS.—At Kilmarnock on 7th October, Andrew Ross; aged 75 years.

FORD.—At Ballochmyle on 20th October, William Ford, 4 Park Avenue; aged 85 years.

ALLAN.—At 105 Henderson Drive on 10th November, Margaret Samson; aged 70 years.

HIGGINS.—At Irvine on 12th November, Alexander Higgins, 29 Garpel Avenue; aged 61 years.

LITTLE.—Suddenly, at Kames Colliery on 9th November, Guy Little, 5 Meanlour Drive; aged 52 years.

BLANE.—At Ballochmyle on 25th November, John Blane, 66 Henderson Drive; aged 45 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

- DALZIEL.—At 44 Lovedale Crescent on 16 November, Robert Dalziel; aged 84 years.
- GIBB.—At Ballochmyle on 21st November, Andrew Gibb, 5 Middlefield Drive; aged 55 years.
- ROSS.—At 7 Wellwood Avenue on 18th November, John Ross; aged 81 years.
- SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 6th December, Agnes Bell, 1 Smallburn Drive; aged 63 years.
- KEDDIE.—At Ayr on 9th December, Lynne Keddie, 56 Pagan Walk; aged 3 months.
- MARLIN.—At Ballochmyle on 12th December, Robert Marlin, 17 Victoria Buildings; aged 50 years.
- BAIN.—At Ballochmyle on 20th December, Robert Bain, 8 Stitt Place; aged 62 years.
- WALLACE.—At 25 Garpel Avenue on 20th December, Mary Vallance; aged 80 years.
- IRVINE.—At Ballochmyle on 29th December, George Irvine, 143 Henderson Drive; 68 years.
- SMITH.—Suddenly, on 31st December, James Smith, 96 Henderson Drive; aged 66 years.

POLICE RETIRAL

In August the retiral was announced of Inspector Richard Scott, who went to Girvan from Muirkirk in 1961. Mr Scott was stationed at Irvine after the war, where he was promoted to Sergeant and transferred to Muirkirk in 1952.

NEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR

As expected, Mr Matt. Lochhead, who has represented Muirkirk for a number of years on Cumnock District Council, has been co-opted to Ayr County Council to succeed the late Mr Andrew Moreland.

As he is already serving on the District Council a casual vacancy automatically arises in that body.

Mr Thomas Gibb was co-opted to fill the vacancy in the Cumnock District Council.

MORE DOLLARS FROM AMERICA

Recently the Rev. John Linkens received a second cheque from Dr George Lang (88), U.S.A. (and a Muirkirk man, of course).

The first time, a few months ago, Dr Lang, retired Professor of Philosophy, sent 1,000 dollars for general use in the parish. This time he has sent 500 dollars for the funds of the Boys' Brigade, and 200 dollars to renovate John Brown's stone at Priesthill.

MUIRKIRK HIBERNIAN F.C.

About the Late 1930's

CHAPTER SIXTY-ONE

(1968)

CLOSURE OF KAMES COLLIERY

The big story of 1968 was undoubtedly the closure of Kames Colliery, which left the community very apprehensive about the future of the village. The events were chronicled as follows:—

POOR OUTLOOK AT KAMES COLLIERY

(January 11 Issue)

At the end of the year we reported that Kames, along with several other collieries, had been warned that unless production improves it too soon may join the other "axed" pits.

Now a reference in this month's "Coal News" reads:—"Kames Colliery's east side was sealed off after an underground fire and limited reserves remain. Manpower losses and poor recruitment have added to difficulties, and output and production have remained low and uneconomic. The pit employs 340 miners."

"Production is by the stoop and room method, and concentration has resulted in little improvement in productivity—25 cwts.-a-manshift in November. Pumping costs are heavy, and markets for the type of coal produced are limited."

KAMES COLLIERY

(January 25 Issue)

After our notes about the uncertain future of Kames, came the announcement that the N.C.B. are expecting to close more pits this year than in any year since the industry was nationalised.

Seven pits in Scotland were listed as being on the danger list—this in addition to the six collieries who were given a temporary reprieve and are due to be shut down before March 31—and amongst the seven are Beoch and Kames, Ayrshire; and Auchmeddan, Lanarkshire. Between these collieries, some 820 men are employed.

In making the announcement, Lord Robens said much of the responsibility for closures would shift from the Board to Regional Planning Councils, and it would be up to them to make out a social case for keeping a pit open longer than was necessary. The present run-down of the industry was giving rise to anxieties and apprehensions of a kind he had not witnessed in mining communities since before the war, but he warned that a militant action reaction against closures could only be disastrous for the industry. Strikes, for example, would only make coal dearer and less competitive.

Mr Michael McGahey, President of the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, said that the pits on the danger list in Scotland represented a productivity problem. Where this occurred the N.U.M. co-operated with the N.C.B. in an attempt to improve output, but where closure was concerned the Union had the right to impose such a measure. The Scottish Area already faced severe problems because of the

six pits due to be closed in the first quarter of this year, and if one of these pits was to be threatened subsequently with closure, this would complicate the situation and the Union would regard such a move with the greatest concern and resist it.

(At the weekend came the announcement that the National Coal Board have negotiated a 25-year agreement with Alcan Ltd. to supply up to a million tons of coal to a purpose-built power station at Invergordon, where the company have staked a claim for an aluminium smelter in 1970. Hopes have been expressed that Scottish coal may be used for this project, as against that from the North-East of England as has been mentioned in some Press reports).

INDUSTRIAL FUTURE OF THE DISTRICT

(January 25 Issue)

While Muirkirk folks have had their misgivings and headaches about the future of the coal industry with which our parish has been so long associated, it is heartening to learn of substantial projects in other industrial spheres which are already coming into being and being planned primarily for the Industrial Estate at Cumnock, which is, of course, designed to relieve and offset the upheavals in the coal industry in our area.

Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Scotland, painted a bright verbal picture of the future for the Area when he visited the South-West last week, and stated that while primarily the aim was to build up the industrial estate already in progress at Cumnock, the belief was that ultimately these new projects would be expanded considerably into the neighbouring villages, and which would eventually lead to far greater advantages than the establishment of small factories piece-meal at the present time, although if industrialists expressed a desire to start up any specific site, they would receive all the available assistance and encouragement.

N.U.M. PUBLIC MEETING

(February 8 Issue)

A largely attended public meeting was held in the Masonic Hall on Sunday, when the speakers were Mr Lawrence Daly, General Secretary N.U.M., Scottish Area, and Mr Emrys Hughes, M.P.

Both speakers voiced their opposition to the Pit closure programme. Mr Daly also touched on redundancy, wages, and pensions, etc., in the coal industry, and remarked that in cases of "jeopardy" meetings—and which applied to Kames—these were usually followed by closure notices.

The Union would be fighting for the retention of the Colliery until other employment was available.

KAMES COLLIERY AND ANXIETY IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE

(February 22 Issue)

The rumour was strong at the weekend that Kames Colliery is scheduled for closure on May 25, and although we could obtain no official confirmation ourselves, there would appear to be something in it.

The matter was raised in the House of Commons on Mon-

day, when Mr Ernest Fernyhough, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour, told the House it was estimated 250 men will lose their jobs by the closure of Kames Colliery, Muirkirk, and Beoch Colliery, Dalmellington.

Ministry of Labour Officers would do everything possible to find the men new jobs, and re-training facilities would be available.

Mr Emrys Hughes also told the House of the anxiety in these isolated places about whether there would be alternative employment available when the pits closed. This presented a serious problem in Muirkirk and the Doon Valley.

At the meeting held on Monday Cumnock District Council heard from the Muirkirk members that Kames Colliery, which employs 350 men, is scheduled for closure on May 5.

County Councillor Matt. Lochhead said that the local pit deputies and clerks at Kames have had this word officially from their Union although it had not been released by the N.U.M. at local level.

It was felt that closures were likely to be severe throughout South Ayrshire, and fears were expressed that if Kames is closed Muirkirk could become a ghost town with hundreds of County Council houses standing empty as miners and their families move away in search of work.

The District Council are making a protest to the Prime Minister, Lord Robens, and the Secretary of State for Scotland.

COLLIERY CLOSURE AND PROPOSALS

(February 29 Issue)

As mentioned in this column last week, it was stated in the House of Commons that an estimated 250 men would lose their jobs by the closure of Kames Colliery, Muirkirk, and Beoch Colliery, Dalmellington.

A later report on Beoch—to stop production on March 22, a few weeks earlier than originally planned—was that the 380 workers were to receive their notices on Friday last, and this was to be followed immediately by the setting up of panels to interview the workers. **Everyone under the age of 65 would be offered other jobs in the coal industry.**

It is expected that 112 men would be absorbed in the other three local pits, some 90 would have to travel work in other areas, and about 67 who live in the Cumnock and New Cumnock areas would be offered jobs at Cumnock.

A local official of the N.U.M. said that after considering the situation and in view of the guarantee of other jobs for all the Beoch workers the Union were not opposing the closure.

They had been unable to prevail on the N.C.B. to spend the capital necessary to develop other seams in the Colliery (Beoch is understood to contain large reserves of high quality coal which, if developed, would provide jobs for the next thirty to forty years).

We now await developments and proposals at Kames Colliery.

100% RE-DEPLOYMENT OFFER TO KAMES MINERS

(March 21 Issue)

In connection with the proposed closure of Kames Colliery at the end of May, a meeting took place at the Colliery on Friday last, at which the National Coal Board officials and N.U.M. representatives were present..

On behalf of the Coal Board, Mr Watson, Area Production Manager, offered 100 per cent. redeployment of the Kames workers to Cairnhill, Highhouse, and Barony Collieries—and the Douglas men at present employed at Kames would be transferred to Kennox.

Mr Watson said in his opinion this was a good offer and would result in no hardship to the village of Muirkirk at all, for the money would be coming into the village just the same. He pointed out that this offer might not be available in a few months' time, and it is hoped to start the rundown at Kames almost immediately.

We understand the Union representatives at the meeting felt that with the reserves of coal at Kames there is a case for the retention of the Colliery.

It is expected that the matter will be further discussed at a full meeting of the miners this weekend.

MINERS TO OPPOSE KAMES CLOSURE

(March 28 Issue)

At a full meeting of Kames Workers in the Regal Cinema on Sunday it was resolved unanimously to put forward a case for the retention of Kames Colliery.

This is in accordance with the Scottish Area N.U.M. pledge to fight against pit closures where reserves of coal are available, and their campaign against the too-fast contraction in the coal fields and other features of the present Government fuel policy.

Kames N.U.M. Branch have arranged a public meeting for Sunday week at which the fuel policy and no doubt the position at Kames will be fully discussed.

The presence of Mr Michael McGahey, the Scottish N.U.M. President, and Mr Wm. McLean, Fife N.U.M. Secretary, as the speakers, will ensure that the Union case will be authoritatively presented.

N.U.M. PUBLIC MEETING

(April 11 Issue)

A large number attended the public meeting in the Regal Cinema to hear the N.U.M. put forward its case for the retention of Kames Colliery. Both the speakers (Mr McGahey and Mr McLean) presented a strong case for the retention of Kames, and were given a good hearing by the audience.

Question time brought out a good deal more information on miners' affairs, and it was reported that with regard to Kames Colliery, which had reserves of coal, the N.U.M. engineer's report, along with Union Observations on any social

consequences which might arise from closure, would be forwarded to London with a view to obtaining an extension of the Colliery's life or its retention in the light of any evidence submitted.

Other points discussed were the heavy burdens on the industry of repayment of capital expenditure and interest resulting from previous encourage expansion; pensions and redundancy, and concessionary coal, and an interesting meeting not far short of three hours' duration, was closed with the customary vote of thanks.

KAMES PIT CLOSURE

(April 25 Issue)

At the Cumnock District Council meeting on Monday night, a reply from Mr R. W. Parker, Scottish Chairman of the National Coal Board, in response to an inquiry by the Council concerning the impending closure of Kames Colliery.

Mr Parker stated that it had been decided that production at the pit should stop on May 25 because the Board saw no chance of Kames being steadily in profit for any length of time.

The 320 miners at Kames would be transferred to other pits in the area.

HOLD-UP

(May 2 Issue)

The expected notices for the workers at Kames Colliery did not materialise on Friday as expected. The reason—a meeting between the Scottish N.U.M. and the National Coal Board at London on Monday first to discuss the Union's case for the retention of the Colliery.

KAMES MEETING

The meeting of Scottish miners' leaders and National Coal Board officials duly took place at London on Monday to consider protests at the proposed closure of Kames Colliery, and Riddochhill Colliery in West Lothian. The decision to close Kames had been deferred until the outcome of the meeting but the closing date for Riddochhill stays at July 12. There may be a statement about Kames this week-end.

CLOSING OF KAMES COLLIERY

(May 30 Issue)

We understand that the local Union Branches have been notified that Kames Colliery will close on July 12 next.

This means that a deferment of seven weeks from the original date has been granted.

Muirkirk folks, understandably, will have a feeling of sadness at the passing of Kames Colliery, but the picture for the future of Muirkirk now appears vastly different and extremely optimistic since the days when the closure of Kames was first threatened.

The recently announced further industrial developments at Cumnock are very reassuring for the inhabitants of the whole district and in the particular case of the local miners—or at least the big majority—we would assume that they will go on holiday at the Fair and come back to jobs in other district pits as promised.

THE BIG STORM

Like many other places, Muirkirk suffered in the severe gale which hit the country on Sunday night (14th January), and daylight revealed a scene of considerable damage and devastation.

About a dozen trees were blown down at Parishholm, and this caused the Douglas road to be blocked from about 5 till 10 a.m. As a result the miners travelling to Kennox were unable to get to work.

The other roads were clear, and the principal damage appeared to be to roofs throughout the village. A chimneyhead at Wellwood Avenue collapsed partly through the roof, and the occupants of two houses had to be removed to safety.

Around the village, and particularly in Smallburn Housing Scheme, TV aerials were broken, blown down and damaged, and an estimated one in three suffered. Here chimney heads were also blown down, along with tiles, ridges, windows, out-houses and garages, and we hear of at least one car which was blown away for some distance to crash into an embankment. Some sections of the electric lighting installations were out of action, and at the "Advertiser" Office we were without power until midday Tuesday.

This was surely the wildest night in the district for many years, but once again it was apparent that we had fared better than many other villages and towns.

HELICOPTER RESCUE OPERATION AT MUIRKIRK

Food Dropped for Starving Sheep

In early February a Royal Air Force helicopter made the first food drop in Scotland this winter to feed some hundreds of starving sheep in the Muirkirk area. The helicopter was flown to Muirkirk from the R.A.F. rescue base at Leuchars.

Mr Gavin Hill, farm manager of the Angus Estates, which embraces the farms of Priesthill, Dipple, Waterhead, Blackside, and Burnfoot, found he was unable to get food to the sheep, and asked the local branch of the National Farmers' Union for help.

This unusual state of affairs at Muirkirk resulted from the recent heavy but gentle snowfall which covered the grazing completely with no bare patches on which the sheep could feed. Dipple Moor was particularly affected.

The National Farmers' Union first approached the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, who got in touch with the Ministry of Defence in London. Then the call went out to Leuchars to prepare a rescue helicopter.

Flight-Sergeant Frederick Ayris, assisted by Master Navigator Lachlan Brown, Falkirk, picked up a total of 100 bales of hay and made five flights to the sheep, stranded on the frozen snow.

Mr Hill and the shepherds jumped down from the helicopter as it was hovering just above the ground, to distribute the feeding and leave some secure for future use.

One of the crew members was Bill Howitt, who comes from Strathaven.

After all the sheep had been fed, Mr Hill entertained the helicopter crew to lunch at Burnfoot Farm.

THE LATE SIR JOHN MAXWELL, C.B.E.

We regret to record the death at Manchester of one of Muirkirk's most illustrious sons, Sir John Maxwell, C.B.E.

The eldest son of the late Mrs M. McDonald, who resided at Co-operative Buildings in Kirkgreen, John Maxwell started work in a local pit as a boy, but continued to study at classes provided at Furnace Road School. At the age of 18 he went to Manchester in 1901, and joined the Police Force as a Probationer Constable.

He progressed through various stages to Clerk and acting Sergeant and in 1910 was transferred to the Detective Department.

In 1914 he was promoted to the rank of Inspector and Chief Clerk, and in 1926 he was placed in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department. Two months later he became acting Chief Constable, and when the post was advertised in 1927 he was appointed Chief Constable from a list of over fifty applicants. He was also Chief of the City's Fire Brigade.

Thus John Maxwell had risen from the position of probationer constable to the head of a force of 1,350 men.

In the 1936 New Year's Honours List he was made a Commander of (Order of) British Empire, and in the 1941 Honours List he received a Knighthood..

Sir John was in his 86th year.

LICENSING COURT

At the March meeting of Ayr District Licensing Court the Licence for the Central Bar, Main Street, was transferred to Mr Robert Holland, who has been manager of this bar for the past five years. At the same Court Mr George Wallace relinquished the licence for Wallace's Bar.

LINK WITH OLD MUIRKIRK

Time inevitably brings its changes, and the recent closing-down of Wallace's Bar severs a link with the life and entertainment of Muirkirk, and especially in the hey-day of the old ironworks and the numerous mines around the district about the beginning of the century.

Wallace's Bar was of course formerly Rennie's Bar and before that it was familiarly known as "Wee Kate's (Hendry)."

In those days of almost entirely home-made entertainment, the bar consisted of a kitchen where the customers sat around the fire and the refreshments were dispensed from an adjoining alcove.

As can be imagined, the stories told and pranks and incidents recalled carried more weight and significance than nowadays, and some have been handed down over the years.

One such tale tells of a discussion around the fire one winter's night in which various drooths extolled the virtue of their respective spouses. Finally, one worthy silenced the company when he declared emphatically that he had "the finest wee wife in the toon!" "In fact," he added, "I wadnae change her the nicht for a £5 note!"

Which, it has been said, was praise indeed in days when a bottle of "Cairntable Dew" cost twa shillins or hauf-a-croon.

WINTER SPORTS

Winter sports enthusiasts—presumably from other airts—were having a real beano on the slopes on both sides of the Strathaven Road in mid-February. Between the Ayrshire-Lanarkshire border at Seggholm and the White Brig skiers and tobogganists gave the countryside the appearance of an Aviemore in miniature, and the enthusiasts seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely.

DEMOLITION

The screening plant at Skew Bridge—once a hive of industry when the opencast project in the vicinity was in full blast, is in progress of demolition at the moment (April). The lines in the adjoining railway sidings are also being lifted.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT**THE CYCLE SHOP**

will be

CLOSED FOR BUSINESS

as from

SATURDAY, 11th MAY

Mr James Pringle takes this opportunity of thanking his many customers for their patronage over the years.

NEW DOCTOR FOR MUIRKIRK

In early May a new Doctor was welcomed to Muirkirk in the person of Dr R. C. McDonald, who has entered into partnership with our respected practitioner, Dr John Weir. Dr McDonald was born in Stirling in 1939, and graduated at Edinburgh University in 1963. Dr McDonald is married and is hoping to be joined by his wife and two young daughters in the near future.

THE LATE MR JOHN TROTTER

The sudden death of Mr John Trotter on 28th April deprived our community of a popular and respected resident and business man.

A member of the well-known firm of John Trotter, Sons & Co. Ltd., New Cumnock, which was founded by his father, Mr Trotter came to Muirkirk over thirty years ago when taking over the drapery and furnishing business still successfully carried on at Main Street. He married a Muirkirk girl, Miss Violet Wilson, and over the years he has shown great interest in our community, and in extending his business connections throughout the surrounding district he became very well known and highly respected.

For many years he was President of Muirkirk Merchants' Association and he was a Past President of Muirkirk Bowling Club. A quiet, thoughtful person, he was a staunch supporter of the Kirk, and was an Elder of Muirkirk Parish Church for a good number of years up to the time of his death after a period of failing health.

FOUND DEAD

On Wednesday, 13th February, the body of Mr John Frew (34), who had been missing from his home at 26 Henderson Drive since 4th February, was discovered in a pool at the Garpel Water near the 21 Brig.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT

Tom Brown (Gent.'s Hairdresser) announced that his business would close on 25th May

THE LATE MR JAMES TAYLOR

Mr James Taylor (67), 21 Wellwood Avenue, who died on 11th May, was a well-known and highly respected member of our community, who will be remembered by many Muirkirk folks at home and abroad in their recollections of Muirkirk over the past fifty years or so. He started his working career as a joiner—the trade followed by his father before him, but he changed his vocation and at the time of his retirement a few years ago he was a shot-firer at Kames Colliery.

In his younger days Mr Taylor was a competent goalkeeper in local football teams, and was especially prominent in the old Muirkirk Battlefield eleven which brought many honours to Muirkirk at that time. He was the last goalkeeper to be signed by the famous Glenbuck Cherrypickers, just prior to their demise in the early 30's. He was also a cornet-player member of the old Parish Silver Band. He was a man who devoted much of his time to Freemasonry, and was a Past Master of Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201. It is noteworthy that two of his sons, John and James, have also held the highest office in the Lodge. He took part in a great deal of ceremonial work over the years, and was made Honorary Life Member of Shotts, Carlisle, and Leadhills Lodges in recognition of these services.

The funeral took place to Muirkirk cemetery when there was a large attendance, and after the service, local and visiting brethren paid their last respects in the manner characteristic of their Craft.

RETIRAL

In May Mr James Grant retired as Fleshing Manager, at Muirkirk Co-operative Society, and to mark the occasion a presentation ceremony was held in the Boardroom. Mr James Masterton, President of the Society, referred to Mr Grant's long and faithful service. He had an excellent record of 46 years of service, and for the past 42 years he had held the position of Fleshing Manager with great acceptance. Mr Grant was presented with a handsome gold watch, suitably inscribed, together with the best wishes of the Board. There was another pleasing ceremony when Mr Bert Robb (who will succeed Mr Grant) asked Mr Grant to accept a fine electric clock from the Fleshing Department Staff.

SCHOOL SPORTS CHAMPIONS

Senior Boys—D. Masterton Senior Girls—J. Lowe
Intermediate Championship:
Boys—D. Wilson Girls—E. Anderson
Junior Boys—H. Hill Junior Girls—H. Weir

KAMES EXODUS

A start has been made with the transfer of Miners from Kames to other collieries, and on Monday (1st July) no fewer than 170 men moved into other jobs at Kennox, Cairnhill, Highhouse, Barony, and Killoch. The men are travelling by special 'buses, and the biggest contingent is employed at Barony. The over-55's will be carrying on at Kames till the work of winding up the Colliery is completed.

SCHOLASTIC

The Dux of 2nd Year at Muirkirk Secondary School was Nan Wilson. Dux of the Primary department was:—Litt.—William Haugh; Math.—James McKerrow.

FATAL ACCIDENT

The sad news reached the village in July that a four-year-old Muirkirk boy, Richard Menzies, son of Mrs and Mrs James Menzies, of Burton-on-Trent, had died as the result of a road accident. Mr and Mrs Menzies moved to England about two years ago, and much sympathy has been expressed with them and local relatives in this tragic loss.

NEW MANAGER

At a meeting of the Board of Management of Muirkirk Co-operative Society in September, Mr Thomas McMorran, Garrohill, was appointed Managing Secretary to succeed Mr Thomas Richmond, who is taking up a similar post at Galston.

Mr McMorran was a former employee of the Society and was Branch Manager at Kirkgreen before taking over as Manager at Glespin.

Muirkirk Old Folks Welfare Committee

This is the team which looked after the interests and welfare of Muirkirk's senior citizens so faithfully and so well.

Back Row (left to right)—

Mrs Spence, Mrs Archibald, Mrs McLachlan (President), Mrs Grant, Mrs Brown, Mrs Hazle (Vice-President) and Mrs Murray.

Front Row (left to right)—

Mrs Stitt, Mrs Beresford, (Past Treasurer), Mr Joe McKenzie, Mrs Nan Fulton (Secretary), Mrs Wilson, and Mrs De Sykes. One other member, Mr W. Park, was absent when the picture was taken.

MUIRTEX EXTENSION

In June the opening of a new 6,000 square feet factory extension to their premises at the old Drill Hall in Main Street marked a milestone in the history of Muirtex Limited. A very fine and beautiful equipped building which has been built by Messrs Robert Howie, Dunlop. The extension will enable the firm to double their staff and to utilise their existing premises to enable the operation of a smoother production flow..

The new establishment, built alongside and connected to the original premises in the former Drill Hall, is Muirkirk's

first customs-built factory. It is designed for the comfortable handling of the materials along a cutting table running the full length of the factory.

MUIRKIRK BOYS' BRIGADE

Muirkirk Boys. Brigade Co. defeated the 136th Glasgow Coy. in the final of the Stedfast Trophy by 6- 1. Team:—J. McGill; T. Beck, W. Fulton; H. Hill, W. Muir, D. Wylie; R. Menzies, G. Taylor, S. Smith, I. Ward, D. Parker; substitutes—Wm. Tait, J. Frame. Scorers—G. Taylor (3), G. Wylie (3).

Muirkirk Ironworks in 1838



Here is a view (taken from an old lithograph) of Muirkirk Ironworks in 1838, just 130 years ago.

The illustration was attached to a sketch map of Muirkirk Mineral Basin at that time (kindly loaned to us by well known Muirkirker, Mr H. H. Wilson) and which we would liked to have reproduced in full, but unfortunately it was too faded and marked for plate-making purposes, and for the same reason the reproduction above is well below the usual standard, but we feel that locals will find it of great interest, as it also gives us some idea of what the lower end of Main Street, entrance to Glasgow Road, Furnace Road and Smallburn looked like at that time.

First of all it should be noted that there was no Kames Pit in those days, and no Slag Bing either!

There are few houses—and no school—in Furnace Road, opposite the top of which Irondale House can easily be distinguished, and there were only a few dwellings in Smallburn.

The Black Bull (or Eglinton) Hotel is presumably at the top of Furnace Road, and readers can speculate on the two-storey buildings along the Main Street and at the foot of Glasgow Road.

On the Southside the Ironworks themselves are very different from the works we remember in our own early days.

The houses at the rear would appear to be the Linkieburn,

and the rows to the west run from North to South instead of the East-to-West rows with which we are familiar.

Farther West lay the Wellwood Mineral Field (given up in 1839) which consisted of about a dozen small pits all except one between Upper Wellwood and Garpel Water.

Just to the east of the Ironworks was the Royal George Pit, and there was a quarry to the South of the Works. Newhouse Quarry was situated close to and on the Muirkirk side of Ashy Burn, and the Waulk Mill is also shown here alongside the River Ayr (we use the old spellings).

Up at Glenbuck the mineral field had been commenced and the Glenbuck Ironworks were in operation.

Pits are marked are Muirfoot (Ponesk), with an ironstone pit farther North, at Bricklaw, and one South-West of the Ironworks.

Landowners at that time were Lord Douglas (Lightshaw area), the Duke of Portland (around Ponesk), and Sir Wyndham Anstruther (Spireslack).

Around Muirkirk we note that Auldhouseburn was purchased by James Hunter, manager of Coltness Works, in 1856, and at Crofthead and Tardoors (we now call it Tardoes), the owner was Mr Pearson.

Also shown on the map, West of Muirkirk, are Kames Hill, Wellwood, Upper Wellwood, Entryhead, The Toll and—a bit farther West—Muirmill

OBITUARY

Another well-known Muirkirk personality passed from our midst in August with the death of Mr G. M. Bain, a native of Glenbuck, well known to us all.

Like most local young men of his generation, George Bain took up his working career in the mines at an early age, but after a gassing accident he was forced to leave the pit.

He followed other vocations, but a keen and talented Labour supporter, he eventually found a niche in district and county affairs through four years' service as a District Councillor, followed by eight years as our representative on Ayr County Council, during which he played a big part in housing affairs and especially the transfer of the Glenbuck population.

Seventy years of age, Mr Bain had suffered poor health from his retirement, but ever since then we learn that many local inhabitants still had the benefit of his experience and advice, even from his sick bed.

Older readers, like ourselves, would learn with regret of the passing (on 9th December) of Miss Janet Hutchison. A goodly number of years ago Miss Hutchison, as local Clerk and Registrar at the Council Offices at Wellwood Street, was a

prominent figure in our community, where she gained the highest respect for her efficient service.

Later she went to live in Edinburgh on receiving an important appointment in Government service, and she lived there until her passing.

FOOTBALL (Season 1967—68)

Muirkirk Juniors supporters were quietly confident at the start of the new season, but were they in for a shock. In their first 13 games the best that Muirkirk could muster was one win and two draws—not the stuff champions are made of.

So this was not a good preparation when they met Tranent Juniors at Ladeside in the second round of the Scottish Cup (having a bye in the first round). But they really surprised their support with a fine 4—2 win. The team was :—Pearson; Jamieson, Shields: Hynds, Miller, McLean; Craig, Short, Reid, Dick, Young.

Unfortunately Muirkirk did not continue on a winning way, and in the Scottish Cup third round they lost at home 5—1 to Kirkintilloch Rob Roy, and that meant early darkness at Ladeside that season, with very little victories to their name.

WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Although some of the finishing touches have yet to be added, the new Club at the top of the town was opened on Friday, 28th June at a short informal ceremony at which the President, Mr Michael Boland, made a few appropriate remarks. Business was quite terrific over the week-end as members flocked to see their new Club, and entertainment and dancing was laid on. The Club consists of a main hall, games room,

and a really fine lounge, with the usual appointments and a service bar designed to deal with all three rooms. Overall there is seating accommodation for just over 300 members, but more will be added when the work is fully completed for the formal opening ceremony later. In the photograph (left to right)—Tom Barrie, Tom Lennox, Geo. Bradford, Andrew Higgins, Michael Boland and Logie Davidson

Wall Cracks result in Closing of Muirkirk School

As most villagers are aware, the appearance of cracks in the walls of Muirkirk Secondary School has been causing some concern and the position rapidly deteriorated last week (September), so much so that the children were told to stay at home until they received further instructions.

Mr J. Wallace, Depute Director of Education, said this had been done as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, the school furniture and equipment has been moved to the Community centre and to the Main Street School, and an announcement regarding the resumption of school instruction appears on the front page in this issue.

Councillor T. McIntyre, Convener of Ayrshire Education Committee, said they were getting expert opinion as to whether or not the School at Furnace Road could be used again in the future.

A meeting of parents was held in October in the Regal Cinema when about 100 interested parents attended. Mr McIntyre presided, and a full and frank discussion took place on the situation as it had arisen, the emergency measures adopted, and the outlook for the future.

From the remarks it was learned that a full investigation is being made to see if it is possible to save the building at Furnace Road. If this is not practicable, top priority will be given to the erection of a new school at Muirkirk.

KAMES COLLIERY

Since the closure of the Colliery, work has been proceeding on the task of winding up the life of the pit. Most of the equipment underground has been brought to the surface, and the work of filling in the shafts is nearing completion. The old shafts at Wellwood Pit and the Heich Weighs (beyond the former railway station) are also to be filled in, we understand.

TRANSFER OF BUSINESS

Mrs M. Stitt announced in October that she has taken over the business formerly carried on by George Bain & Son, Fruiters and General Merchants, at Pagan Walk.

THE LATE MR JAMES GIRDWOOD

Mr James Girdwood, Burns Avenue, passed away at Ballochmyle Hospital on 30th November, aged 84 years.

Over a long period of years Mr Girdwood had made a name for himself in the feathered fancy, and he was one of the best known authorities on the breeding and exhibiting of bantams in the British Isles. Black Rosecombs were his speciality, and on many occasions he scored with great success at the big championship shows and, having in his day exported birds to various countries, his strain is still amongst the leading prize-winners. He also had many successes with White Wynandottes, and indeed, with his expertise he would possibly have made his mark with any variety in which he showed an interest.

He was Hon. President of Muirkirk Ornithological Society, and his presence at the Bird Show will be sadly missed by his colleagues and the many visiting fanciers who enjoyed meeting a real fancier and lifelong enthusiast like Jimmy Girdwood.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1968

BIRTHS

PURDIE.—To Mr and Mrs Jim Purdie on 28th January; a son.
BLACK.—To Mr and Mrs Ted Black on 13th April; a son.
FINDLAY.—To Mr & Mrs Peter Findlay on 16th May; a son.
HOWELL.—To Mr & Mrs M. Howell (Helen Findlay); a son.
LAWSON.—To Mr and Mrs Jim Lawson (Maragaret Bickerton); a son.
BECK.—To Mr and Mrs John Beck (Nan Findlay) on 20th June; a daughter.
PARK.—To Mr and Mrs Andrew Park (Irene Kean) on 24th July; a daughter.
BLAIR.—To Mr and Mrs D. Blair (Margaret Wharrie) on 26th August; a daughter.
BRADFORD.—To Mr and Mrs David Bradford (Anne Wharrie) on 17th August; a daughter.
WYLIE.—To Mr and Mrs Lorimer Wylie (Eleanor Hazle) on 7th December; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

ROBERT KEDDIE to INEZ CONN on 3rd February.
JAMES CURRIE to MARJORIE MacLEOD on 2nd March.
DAVID BEATTIE to JANE PALMER on 9th March.
JAS. MARSHALL to MARGT. MARSHALL on 9th March.
THOMAS PALMER to SYBIL BAILLIE on 30th March.
JAS. MASTERTON to MARGT. MALCOLM on 22nd June.
WILLIAM RUSSELL to IRENE ROWE on 15th June.
JAMES SAMSON to JEAN PURDIE on 6th July
MALCOLM KELLY to WILMA MITCHELL on 7th Sept.
JAMES MASTERTON to HELEN NELSON on 6th Sept.
ALFRED RIDLEY to MARY ROBSON on 14th Sept.
GEO. FALCONER to MARGARET WYLLIE on 21st Sept.
DAVID PURDIE to MARGARET DODDS on 5th October.
WM. TEMPLETON to ANNE McMORRAN on 5th October.
WM. VALENTIBE to SHIELA MACKIN on 23rd Nov.
GEO. HOLLAND to ROSEMARY McINTOSH on 14th Dec.
GEO. SCOTLAND to SUSAN BARRIE on 20th December.

DEATHS

McCRORIE.—At 8 Smallburn Drive on 2nd January, Mary Saunders (late of 42 Garronhill); aged 78 years.
WYLIE.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd January, Agnes Constable, 21 Wellwood Street; aged 66 years.
PARKER.—In Australia on 7th January, John Parker; aged 52 years.
CRAWFORD.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd January, Margaret Crawford, Nether Wellwood Stables; aged 71 years.
McDONALD.—At Law Hospital on 21st January, Archie McDonald, late of Bank Cottage, Garronhill; aged 82 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

- BROWN.—At 12 Wellwood Street on 27th January, Mary Tregembo; aged 84 years.
- BONE.—At Ballochmyle on 31st January, William Bone; aged 81 years.
- RIDDELL.—At Prestwick on 1st February, Margaret (Rita) Miller; aged 34 years
- DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle on 8th February, James Davidson, 6 Carruthers Park; aged 76 years.
- HOGG.—At Renfrew on 7th February, Samuel Hogg, 35 Glasgow Road; aged 75 years.
- McGARRITY.—At Ballochmyle on 10th February, Samuel McGarrity, 25 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 67 years.
- MAXWELL.—At Manchester on 14th February, Sir John Maxwell, C.B.E. (late of Co-operative Buildings, Kirk-green); aged 86 years.
- WALLACE.—At 36 Glasgow Road on 20th February, Mary Baxter; aged 90 years.
- CHILTON.—At Ballochmyle on 21st February, Catherine Bone, 51 Wardlaw Avenue; aged 39 years.
- KIRKWOOD.—At 34 Hareshaw Crescent on 3rd March, Joseph Kirkwood; aged 55 years.
- PATERSON.—At 7 Meanlour Drive on 29th February, Peter Paterson; aged 69 years.
- ESSON.—At Birmingham on 7th March, Euphemia McKerrow; aged 86 years.
- BARRIE.—At Ballochmyle on 13th March, Jean Bradford, 46 Harwood Avenue; aged 65 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At Cumnock on 16th March, Christina Burt, 15 Wellwood Avenue; aged 59 years.
- FREW.—At Muirkirk on 4th February, John Frew, 26 Henderson Drive; aged 34 years.
- SCOT.—At Kilmaurs on 15th March, Thomas Scott; aged 70
- SIMPSON.—At Ballochmyle on 31st March, Isabella Clark, Dunlossit, Lanark Road, Muirkirk; aged 72 years.
- ENGLAND.—At 42 Middlefield Drive on 6th April, Harriet Lawrie; aged 75 years.
- TROTTER.—At Ballochmyle on 28th April, John Trotter, 7 Wellwood Street; aged 54 years.
- BURNS.—At Ballochmyle on 4th May, Annie Burns, 8 Garpel Avenue; aged 47 years.
- TAYLOR.—At Ballochmyle on 11th May, James Taylor, 21 Wellwood Avenue; aged 67 years.
- WILSON.—At Law Hospital on 25th May, Mary Loggie.
- IRVINE.—At Bothwell on 27th May, Elizabeth Irvine, 2 Colthart Drive; aged 49 years.
- ROBB.—At 13 Burns Avenue on 30th May, Margaret Lindsay; aged 74 years.
- WALKER.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd June, James Walker, 50 Pagan Walk; aged 42 years.
- FALCONER.—At 32 Glasgow Road on 24th June, Elizabeth Hamilton; aged 76 years.
- HARRIGAN.—At Fort William on 27th June, Marion Aird; aged 75 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle on 10th July, Euphemia Wilson, 42 Wellwood Street; aged 62 years.
- LOGGIE.—At Law on 5th July, Daniel Loggie; aged 73 years.
- CALDWELL.—In South Australia on 9th July, Charles Caldwell.
- MENZIES.—As the result of an accident on 22nd July, Richard Menzies; aged 4½ years.
- RORRISON.—At 2 Wellwood Street on 18th July, Jean Robertson; aged 66 years.
- BAIN.—At Ballochmyle on 27th July, George M. Bain, 1 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 70 years.
- SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 4th August, Margaret Samson, 6 Bridge Street; aged 75 years.
- BARRIE.—At Ballochmyle on 13th August, John Barrie; aged 49 years.
- JOHNSTONE.—At Ballochmyle on 8th August, Samuel Johnstone, 18 Garronhill; aged 50 years.
- BAIN.—At Ballochmyle on 11th September, Annie Murdoch (sole partner of George Bain & Sons).
- COOK.—At Ballochmyle on 11th September, John Cook, 15 Middlefield Drive; aged 61 years.
- MORAN.—At Dundonald on 13th September, James Moran, 13 Smallburn Drive; aged 44 years.
- MORELAND.—At Killearn on 21st September, Mary Moreland; aged 66 years.
- ROBB.—At Burton-on-Trent on 21st September, James Robb; aged 37 years.
- BELL.—At 13 Stitt Place on 7th October, Hugh Bell, aged 65
- McINALLY.—At 97 Henderson Drive on 6th October, Thomas McInally; aged 79 years.
- TAIT.—At 31 Wellwood Street on 15th October, Sarah Menzies; aged 69 years
- KERR.—At Fleming Cottage on 1st November, Robina Logan; aged 80 years.
- McCULLOCH.—At 103 Henderson Drive on 2nd November, Archibald McCulloch; aged 68 years.
- CASEY.—At Ballochmyle on 27th October, Robina Casey, 28 Colthart Drive; aged 68 years.
- HAMILTON.—At 29 Hawkshaw Terrace on 12th November, Hugh Hamilton; aged 78 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle on 16th November, Thomas Davidson, 9 Pagan Walk; aged 83 years.
- GIRDWOOD.—At Ballochmyle on 30th November, James Girdwood, 10 Burns Avenue; aged 84 years.
- KEAN.—At Glasgow on 29th November, John Kean (as the result of an accident).
- MARSHALL.—At Sanquhar on 13th December, Annie Marshall; aged 77 years.
- HUTCHISON.—At Edinburgh on 9th December, Janet Hutchison, late of Muirkirk.

CHAPTER SIXTY-TWO

(1969)

MUIRKIRK PARISH

. . . . *A Long Time Ago*

By "HAW BURN."

I have been looking over some old maps of the Parish and browsing through records and booklets. Perhaps your readers may like to know of the bits and pieces I have collected together.

The oldest map is 320 years old (1648) and indicates farms and other houses, rivers and burns in great detail, but no roads are shown—perhaps there were none in existence at that time.

I give below a list of some old place names with the current equivalent:—

Parrach Hoom—Parish Holm.
River Aer—River Ayr.
Airs Gren—Airdsgreen.
Pyrslack—Spireslack.

Just north of Spireslack there is a name which I cannot associate—SHOORENSHOOMSHA. Perhaps your Glenbuck readers can help here?

Erls Hill—Earls Hill
Pounisk—Ponesk.
Preetssheel—Priesthill.
Dubble—Dipple.
Lysha—Lightshaw.
Eshawburn—Ashieburn.
Krosflot—Crossflatt.
Kems—Kames or Kaims.

In his booklet, the Rev. Peter Mearns (born in Muirkirk and who used to exchange pulpits with the Rev. John Dundas in Muirkirk) tells us that Kames or Kaims is of Scottish origin and is the Scottish term for comb and is applied to a ridge of sand or gravel on account of its resemblance to a cock's comb.

These ridges appear in the vicinity of Kameshill and Auldhouseburn and on Tardoes and Lightshaw Farms.

Torduys—Tardoes.
Blaksyd—Blackside.
Wairdlaw—Wardlaw.
Moorkirk—Muirkirk.
Walwood—Wellwood.
Grinok—Townhead of Greenock.
Lymroch—Limmerhaugh.
Binbreck Hil—Penbreck Hill.

I notice a LOCH BRECK near this hill with a burn flowing from it to join Garpel Water. This could be the happy hunting ground of some of your old familiar Southside readers on their treks to the Deil's Back Door. I wonder if anyone came across this loch.

Karn Hill—Cairntable.

Mains—Greenock Mains.

There is a Chapel House indicated at this location. I believe there was a clachan, chapel, and some sort of industry there at one time.

George McMurdo, in one of his poems, tells us—

"Blawearie Jock and Coutburn Jean
Were lovers blythe and trusty;
She was a strappin' country queen,
He was a collier dusty."

Knowing that Blawearie was a coal pit situated near Glenbuck, I thought that Jock must have been "keen" if he had to "pad it" (no "Stoorie Aggie" in these days) three or four times a week to see Jean at Coutburn Raw (at the sheep bughts beyond Springhill), but an old map of date 1848 has given me the answer, for there was a Blawearie situated just south of Wellwood Pit. So Jock had not to travel so very far after all to see his Bonnie Jean! (Incidentally, there was also a Blawearie at Upper Catchieburn—this was a double row of houses facing one another at the foot of Cairntable where Riggend now stands.

Whilst in the Coutburn Row locality I note a Cochrane Lodge situated on the pathway to Tibbie's Brig and Garpel Ha'—a little further up stream and near to lead mines there. I presume that these houses were occupied by the officials or owners of the numerous pits and mines in this area.

Still in this vicinity we had the house of Tibbie Pagan and now marked by a monument erected by the late Mr Dugald Baird of Kaimshill, who was for many years General Manager of the Coal Company. Tibbie died in 1820 at the age of 80 years. She was buried in the old Kirkyard.

I remember seeing some years ago a cutting from an American paper addressed to the Mayor of Muirkirk (who's he?). It contained a black and white drawing of Tibbie in the "Believe it or not" type of series, and it said that this Muirkirk poetess could write the **whole** of the Bible from memory! No **half** measures with the Yanks!

At the other end of the scale, legend has it that Tibbie used to frequent the "Black Bottle" Tavern at Kirkgreen, whose customers plied her with the "barley-bree," and in return, she performed a strip-tease act on top of the counter. But that story is, perhaps, just as "tall" as the Yankee one.

1848 Map

The 1848 map also indicates a Curling Pond on the West side of the Strathaven Road just at the bend before approaching the Beggars' Wood, and one near where Rowe's Transport is now situated. Your older readers will remember this as the site of Walker's Brewery. 'Soft' drinks only, I'm told.

The brae on the Strathaven Road beyond Greenside we know as the Sware. In this map the locality is noted as The Swire, and Mansefield as the Old Manse.

During the course of my reading I came across an unusual custom in the Parish School.

Apparently it was customary in the early 1800's for pupils

to bring a money gift to the Headmaster on New Year's Day. The boy who brought the highest amount was King for the day and the girl who gave the highest was Queen.

The Schoolmaster showed his gratitude for the gifts by presenting to each scholar two glasses of whisky toddy. Every scholar accepted one, and most accepted two!

The Rev. Peter Mearns, who was a pupil at the school at that time, tells of this custom in his booklet published in 1883 (when he was Minister at Coldstream).

The authenticity of the story is not doubted.

In the days when roads were few and buses and motor cars unheard of, travelling was on foot or horseback and one might be led to believe that life, especially in the winter months, on the farms and in shepherds' cottages, was dull and dreary. But this was not so, according to the Rev. Peter Mearns, for he tells us that the country folk used to meet in each other's houses for social evenings. This gathering was apparently called a "Rockin'." Each member of the company had to sing a song or give a recitation or tell a story.

Our National poet, Robert Burns, refers to such gatherings in his epistle to J. Lapraik:—

On Fasten e'en we had a rockin'
Tae ca' the crack and weave oor stockin'
And there was muckle fun an' jokin'
Ye needna doubt;
At length we had a heart yokin'
At sang about.

This epistle was prompted by one of Lapraik's songs sung at a rockin' at Mossiel.

Local Authority

With the publication of the Wheatley Report which deals with the reallocation of local authority boundaries it may be of interest to your readers to hear about some local authority matters in the village about 100 years ago.

Over the years the tendency has been to widen the boundaries. We had a Parochial Board, a Parish Council and in 1930 a County Council, which is still responsible for the administration of landward affairs. There seems little doubt that something in the form of the Wheatley proposals will emerge eventually.

But to our village in bygone days. By virtue of the Public Health (Scotland) Act of 1867, the Parochial Board, as local authority, had to form rules and regulations regarding common lodging houses in the parish. The lodging house keeper had to produce a "certificate of character," signed by at least three inhabitants (householders assessed for the relief of the poor) and have his house, including beds and bedding, inspected by the Inspector of Common Lodging Houses in the parish, and of course there was a limit to the number of lodgers, and males and females (except man and wife) were not allowed to sleep in the same apartment, and there were also rules about thoroughly cleansing all rooms, passages, floors, ceilings, windows, privies, ashpits and cesspools to the satisfaction of the Inspector; cleansing and scouring blankets in the months of January, April, July, and October in each year;

and a fine not exceeding five pounds if you did not obey the rules!

This Act also empowered the Parochial Board to appoint Nuisances Inspectors and Sanitary Inspectors.

At this time too (1871) the Board rented "that house known as the old School House for the purpose of putting sick patients into" and a little later on the Sanitary Inspector is authorised to purchase six pairs of woollen blankets, two bed coverings and two beds to hold chaff and bolster and pillow slips for furnishing two beds, and a few necessary articles for the kitchen.

(I am not sure about the site of old school house, but it is thought that it was located where Burnbrae Cottage now stands, and was a double-storey building—the "hospital" part on the top flat being entered by an outside stair).

New Water Sources

Also as a consequence of the 1867 Act the Sanitary Inspector was advocating the tapping of new water sources, and of six samples sent for analysis, five were of superior quality and of Sample No. 1, the analyst says:—"If derived from natural sources it is unsurpassed by any in the Kingdom."

Unfortunately, the sources are not indicated.

Is this a Clue?

(Could No. 1 have any connection with the "Whisky Knowe" or had an unlabelled bottle of the "Dews of Cairntable" got mixed up with the other bottles).

At this time the village was supplied by water from a spring in the "Kirk Plantation" and Kirkgreen and Bridge Street were served by "Cold Sanny" (sometimes referred to as "Coal Sanny" or "Cold Sanny") near the entrance to St. Thomas, and the Board were considering ways and means of improving the source and making the supply more comprehensive with additional piping, etc.

(I cannot place the Kirk Plantation Spring. There is a spring on the knoll to the West of Kirkburn Falls—known to many as the "Baptism Well"—and I know that Miss Pearson of Crofthead used to be served by a spring at the foot of her lawn, but I cannot imagine that either had any connection with the village supply.

It may be that the Kirk Plantation is really what used to be known as (and still by many), the Wee Tree Wood, for the water tank (built some time later), is situated in the field north of Wellwood Street and adjacent to the plantation.

Supply from Cairntable

The outcome of the Board's deliberations was that the Kirk Plantation Scheme be abandoned because of the likelihood of mining operations and "that there is a feeling prevailing that the water supply may be more or less contaminated from the Cemetery" and the Board resolved that it would be better to take the supply from Cairntable.

This was approved at a public meeting, but later it was alleged that the meeting was held on an inconvenient day and not representative, and a second meeting was called and the wish of this meeting was that additional water be brought into the village from the Kirk Plantation—the source of the present supply at that time.

The Board still preferred Cairntable, and then a real old argy-bargy ensued with petitions and counter-petitions as to the source of the supply, and if a water district was eventually formed what houses and properties should be included for rating purposes.

The outcome was that the Kirk Plantation Site was favoured and it was from this decision that eventually the water tank (previously mentioned) in Wellwood Street was built.

But although this source was persevered with for some time, it was eventually abandoned in favour of Cairntable.

As one might expect when sanitary arrangements were quite primitive, epidemics of scarlet fever, measles, and typhoid fever were a regular feature, but the Sanitary Inspector, who was also the local Parish Medical Officer (Dr Ritchie) was constantly calling for improvements in all things pertaining to hygiene—water supply, drainage, over-crowding, erection of “privies” or dry closets and the improvement of those in existence; disposal of filth and rubbish, etc.

Proposed Hospital

Disease was so rife and occurred with such regularity that the erection of a proper hospital was mooted at one time and the Board of Supervision suggested that linking up with Sorn and Mauchline might be desirable from a financial point of view.

This link-up was not taken further but the Parochial Board had plans prepared and offers were submitted for the erection of a hospital to be sited between the Cemetery and T. Symington's house, but the project was subsequently abandoned.

From December, 1876, till May, 1877, there were 204 cases of scarlet fever, of which 32 died. This is just one example. There were many.

At the time of a typhoid fever epidemic in 1879, Dr Ritchie, in an effort to trace a possible source of infection, prepared a report on all the premises producing milk.

Most of the farms produced milk and, surprisingly, quite a few persons in the village also milked one or two cows.

The report indicates that most of the byres and dairies were clean and well ventilated and the milk dishes, in the main, were “fresh and sweet.”

Of the 44 premises reported upon, only one came in for a rebuke from the Doctor, when he found one of the milk luggies in daily use as such was being used to wash in and contained soap and water; and the milk-house damp, hot and dirty, being used as a wash-house.

This farm by the way, is not now in existence.

Dr Ritchie, in his report, suggested general improvements in the sanitary arrangements in most places, and in particular he called attention to doubtful water sources and the inadequacy of the supply.

Farming Families

Perhaps your readers may be interested to hear of some of the farming families of those days:—

Allison, Tardoes.
Findlay, Mansefield.
Shearer, Lower Hall

McKerrow, Spireslack.
Francis Thomson, Grasshill.
Callan, West Glenbuck.
Semple, Mid Wellwood.
Cameron, Nether Wellwood.
McMin, Upper Wellwood.
McClymont, Bankend.
Clement, Greenside.
Moffat, Kames.
McCormick, Burnfoot.
Hamilton, Greenockmains

Slaughter Houses

A report was also prepared on Slaughter Houses, seven in all, with one rag and bone store in Glasgow Road.

These, for the most part, were wooden huts in varying states of dilapidation with little or no drainage.

One reported upon was a wooden hut which also served as a stable, with a “privy” in the corner and when the bullock carcass was hung this rubbed against the horse's hindquarters!

Rump steak in the making!

Sanitation

Many of the houses had no privies or dry closets and those that were in existence had to serve quite a few families. There was also, I understand, what one might term a “two-berth model”—two persons could make use of it at the same time! I suppose it would be just like sitting on the garden seat chatting with your next door neighbour or a member of your family. It was not unknown too, for courting couples to occupy “the little house” (as it was politely referred to in those days).

Can you picture “Jock and Jean” sitting there, side by side, holding hands and pledging their troth, with possibly a foot against the door to keep out intruders.

Love, they say, is blind. Perhaps it also dims the sense of smell!

The Parochial Board.

What of the Parochial Board members in those days? They were ever vigilant, and looked after the baw-bees. There was no needless spending, and accounts were passed for payment only after close scrutiny.

Members would, if necessary, meet at 8.30 in the morning and, on a few occasions tramped over Cairntable in search of suitable springs for a supply of water for the Village.

They not only inspected the springs, but measured the gallons per minute running from them. For example, Tam Samson's Well (east of Ashieburn) was running at 24 gallons per minute, and Lady Well, on Auldhouseburn at 22 gallons per minute.

Work Contracts

Most of the work was done by contract, and one of the smaller ones which is of interest was “for carting of rubbish off the streets once per week, 3/6” and “for supplying driver and horse for hearse, 3/- within the village and 1/- per mile extra outside the village.”

In addition to the duties of water supply, drainage, control

of lodging houses and slaughter houses and all matters pertaining to sanitation, the Parochial Board was also responsible for the relief of the poor under the control of the Board of Supervision.

Relief of Need

With national insurance and social security much in the news these days perhaps it may not be out of place to relate briefly the history of the "relief of need" from very early days..

The Acts of the 15th century—1424 to 1449—were not concerned with giving monetary aid to those in need but rather to give certain persons, unable to work or earn a living, a licence to beg.

Vagrants were frowned on in these days and if found begging could have their ears cut off, and for a second offence they could be hanged!

By the Act of 1503 "the cruikit folk, blind folk, impotent folk and waik folk" could be given a licence to beg within their own parish.

A step forward (albeit a short one) was the Act of 1579 "for punishment of strong and idle beggars and for the relief of the poor and impotent. This Act was administered by the Justices in county areas and by the Provost and Bailies in burghs.

The Act of 1672 transferred the administration of relief to the Kirk Sessions along with the Heritors (land owners connected with the Church). This body is now defunct. Funds for poor relief were drawn mainly from church collections and this operated till 1845, when Parochial Boards took over.

In 1894 Parochial Boards were displaced by Parish Councils, whose members were elected by public vote.

Up till 1921 poor relief could only be given to unfit persons, but the Act of 1921 authorised relief to able-bodied persons also who were out of work.

But expenditure on relief rose steeply and became too heavy a burden for individual parishes to bear, and so by 1930 Parish Councils were displaced by the larger areas of County Councils and these and the large Burghs became the "relief" authorities.

"Able-bodied" relief continued to rise and became so burdensome on local rates that by 1934 the Government took over the responsibility by the passing of the National Assistance Act and by 1948 the "relief" duties remaining with the County Councils and large Burghs were also taken over by the Government.

The administration and financing of those in need who are old, sick, disabled or unemployed has always been of a complex nature and not of easy solution.

Progress has been slow but, nevertheless, steady.

We have come a long way—some 500-odd years—from the barbaric days of the 15th century to a tolerant, more enlightened approach to a difficult human problem.

Old Rhymers

In days gone by the Parish had its share of residents who dabbled in the writing of verse and had their efforts published in book form.

Names that come readily to mind are James Hyslop, John Lapraik, George McMurdo, James M. Hodge, John Whyte, Thomas Floyd and, of course, the one and only Tibbie Pagan.

I have never come across a published version of Tibbie's poems, although I have been told that there is such a collection. (I believe excerpts from the book were printed in the "Advertiser" a good number of years ago.—Ed.)

My information about the versifiers is really very sparse, and this was emphasised a short time ago when I was given a book of poems composed by a person I had not heard of before, yet there must be a few of the books in the village. His name, Robert Adamson, and his book of poems, as officially titled, "Lays of Leisure Hours," was published in 1879 (90 years ago).

There is an introductory note to the book by one Alexander Wallace, D.D., of Glasgow, who had come to the village to give a talk on "Our Native Wood-notes Wild." He was introduced to Robert Adamson who, we are told, was in charge of the engine which supplied blast to the iron furnaces.

The profits from the book were devoted to the "furtherance of a good cause in our locality."

It is an enjoyable little book and contains interesting material on a variety of subjects—"Martyrland, from Cairntable," "Tibbie Pagan," "Burns," and so on.

Many of the poems are quite long, but perhaps the Editor might find space to print one of the shorter ones:—

WEE DAVIE

Wee Davie, wi' his rosy cheeks,
Sparklin' e'en and curly pow,
Hose an' knickerbocker breeks,
Is a dainty man, I trow.

Sportive as the little lammie,
Frisking fu' o' nature's fun;
Dancing fondly roond his mammy,
Mid the smiling simmer sun.

No' a care nor grief tae wrinkle
His wee silken, sunny broo,
Nor tae dim the starry twinkle
O' his e'en, sae bonny blue.

Yet a moment never idle,
Rampin' baith bit and bridle—
Little, lauchin' lordie loon.

There he's on the poker ridin'
Races but and ben the hoose,
Noo into a corner hidin',
Mim as ony little moose.

Keeping his wee sisy seekin'
Lang and weary, high and low,
Till the little roggie, keekin'
Roond the corner, cries 'Keek-bo.'

What a tirrorive o' laughin',
Striving the last 'tig' tae gi'e,
Dinna flyte, their dinsome daffin'
Sweetest music is tae me.

Let the bairnies hae the blessin
 O rejoicing while they may;
 Sune enough theyll learn the lesson
 That life is nae bairnies play.

It is significant that we have had few, if any, verse writers since the days of Thomas Floyd, and considering the variety and scope now offered in modern education, it says a lot for them, with an education based on the three R's, that they overcame this seeming deficiency to leave behind such a fine selection of verse.

Glenbuck

There do not seem to have been any poets domiciled around Glenbuck, but that village has had many achievements in other fields, and has rightly earned a place in the history of the Parish.

It is doubtful if there was anyone in the quouting world equal to Tammy Bone, at his best at 21 yards—and surely there has never been a village of comparable size which produced so many professional footballers and some of international standard.

On the farming side, Charles Howatson of Glenbuck House was nationally known as a breeder of black-face sheep. He pioneered, by selective breeding and good husbandry, a substantial increase in the weight of wool in a sheep's fleece. He also had the distinction of winning the Highland Show seven (or perhaps it was eight) years in succession. This record stands to this day.

Mr Howatson had large composite photographs prepared depicting all the winners, and the walls of many of the local farmhouses were adorned for many years with the framed photographs.

The tups were fine examples of the breed at that time, and were extremely photogenic with their roman noses, wide nostrils (Indicative of robustness and vigour), "glinty" look and "traily" coats, and nice-sounding names—such as "Morning Sun of Glenbuck."

The present-day breed is little changed in facial features except to show a little "brock" (or white), but the "maxi" coat has been deserted for the more fashionable "mini" to exhibit a little more leg and some daylight under the belly.

Robustness and vigour has always been a much-sought-after feature in the blackface sheep, and the story is told of one old way at Lanark Market, when extolling, to prospective buyers, the virtues of the tup he had for sale, intimated that "not only would it tip a' the yowes aboot the place, but bring in your peats in the Spring."

Please excuse this little diversion, but before leaving Glenbuck may I say that the iron produced at the local Ironworks (many folks may not know that there were ironworks at Glenbuck) was of a very fine quality and had the distinction of being used on the first railway line.

One other item of interest concerns Glenbuck Church (for which Mr Howatson was mainly responsible), which was opened for public worship on 16th July, 1882.

Whilst on the subject of churches, may I add that when the parish of Muirkirk was detached from Mauchline in July, 1631,

the Church established at that time was called The Kirk of the Muir," and was situated in Kirkgreen. This Church was repaired and heightened in 1775 and in 1882/83 further repairs were carried out in re-flooring and re-seating, and a handsome carved pulpit was provided.

While the church was under repair the congregation met with the United Presbyterians in their Church.

There must be many more items of interest concerning the Parish and I am sure that some of your readers can add to what I have been writing these past few weeks.

Just as I was finishing these notes I was shown a silver medallion (expertly engraved) donated by the Highland and Agricultural Association of Scotland in 1870 (100 years ago) for the "3rd Best Kept Garden" in Muirkirk (where are the 1st and 2nd ones).

The medallion bears the name of the winner—Charles Floyd (father of the late Thomas Floyd, author of "Cairntable Rhymes.")

DISASTROUS FIRE AT MASONS ARMS HOTEL

In the early hours of 15th January a disastrous fire gutted the Masons Arms Hotel at the top of the town.

The alarm was raised about two o'clock in the morning, by which time the fire had a good hold, and although the Muirkirk and Cumnock Fire Brigade were quickly summoned, the public bar, and the kitchen, hall and bedrooms were completely gutted.

Although the fire was prevented from reaching the cocktail bar, this section was also extensively damaged by water.

One of the oldest licensed establishments in the village, for very many years the Masons Arms Hotel has enjoyed the patronage of local inhabitants, travellers and holiday-makers, and for a country hotel it was very widely known.

Just recently the proprietor, Mr Jack Ferguson, carried out an extensive scheme of modernisation, with the addition of a completely new cocktail bar, while the old and familiar round bar was replaced with a modern service bar.

DAVY McKAY



ST. THOMAS CHURCH

History was made in the life of the Catholic Church in South Ayrshire on 5th July, when Joseph Boland, a native of Muirkirk, and only son of Mr and Mrs William Boland, Hawkshaw Crescent, was ordained by the Bishop of Galloway in the local church dedicated to St. Thomas. As far as can be ascertained, Father Boland is the first priest ever from the local community. He has received an appointment to St. Paul's, Ayr.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

It was announced that the N.C.B. Training Centre at Dungavel is to close.

Miss Ann Campbell was chosen as Muirkirk's Coal Queen to represent Muirkirk at the Miners' Gala.

Muirkirk man Mr Charles Wilson was appointed Headmaster at Stevenston High School.

It was announced that Muirkirk is to get a brand new Primary School.

Rev. John Linkens, Minister of Muirkirk Parish Church has received a call from Port Glasgow Old Church. Mr Linkens was ordained in Muirkirk in 1964.

Congratulations to Muirkirk man, Mr Andrew Steele who has been appointed Rector of Belmont Academy, Ayr. Mr Steele had been Headmaster at Patna since 1963.

Mr Ian Paterson, Auldhouseburn, won the Blackface Sheep Male, "Bred" and Supreme Championship with a two-year tup at the Royal Highland Show.

Mr Donald Russell gained the Sir John Latta Dux Award at Cumnock Academy.

For the first time ever there was no closing ceremony at Muirkirk school. This is a departure from tradition, and will bring a degree of sadness to many, and the annual school prize-list will be missed.

A presentation was made to Miss Jean Gordon to mark over 45 years' service with Muirkirk Co-operative Society.

In September a licence was granted for the sale of liquor to Muirkirk Bowling Club.

The telephone kiosk opposite the Regal Cinema was moved to a safer site at the Scout Hall.

A public house licence for the Empire Bar was granted to Mr Robert Farley.

Demolition work has been progressing at Kames Colliery. The office building and bridge over the River Ayr have gone, and the second engine tower is actually being blasted down.

The bulldozer has also been busy at the site of the old Ironworks, and some levelling has been done at the west end of the Slag Bing.

Sam Purdie was adopted as S.N.P. Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for South Ayrshire.

FOOTBALL (Season 1968—69)

A fine win over Auchinleck Talbot at Ladeside Park in the opening League match made for a promising future for Muirkirk. The score was 4—0, and the team comprised:—Falconer; Hunter, Shields; Clark, Gilhooley, Speedie; H. McMillan, Burt, Yuille, Shearer, J. McMillan.

In the 2nd round of the Scottish Cup Muirkirk had a good 4—2 win against Newtongrange Star at Ladeside. Team:—Dempster; Hunter, Shields; Clark, Gilhooley, Speedie; Cunningham, Wilson, Yuille, Shearer, McKay.

This was followed by an away 2—1 win at Vale of Clyde in the 2nd round of the West of Scotland Cup.

In the Ne'erday Scottish Cup 3rd round tie at Ladeside against Stonehaven, Muirkirk emerged victorious 2—1. Team:—Dempster; Hunter, Shields; Shearer Gilhooley, Speedie; McMillan, Wilson, Yuille, Cunningham, McKay.

It all fell apart in the Scottish Cup 4th round, when away to Rutherglen Glencairn they went down 3—0. Team—Dempster; Hunter, Shields; Clark, Gilhooley, Speedie; Harper, Wilson, Yuille, Shearer, McKay.

And Muirkirk's season virtually ended when in the 3rd round of the West of Scotland Cup they travelled to Blantyre Vics and were trounced 5—0.

BIRD SHOW CANCELLED

After having all the arrangements completed for their annual show of Bantams on Saturday, 13th December, including the not inconsiderable task of erecting pens and staging to accommodate some 400 specimens of the best exhibition bantams in the country, the officials and members of Muirkirk Ornithological Society had the almost heart-breaking experience of having to cancel the show at the very last minute owing to the confirmation of outbreaks of fowl pest in poultry establishments in West Scotland.

CUP FOR MUIRKIRK

In the final of the Ayrshire Churches Cup Muirkirk beat Mauchline by 2—0 at Townhead Park, Cumnock.. The Muirkirk team was:—McNair; Lowe, Graham; Campbell, Ward, Jim Masterton; Muir, John Masterton, R. Parker, Dempster, Davidson. Dempster and Muir were the scorers.

ANOTHER CUP FOR MUIRKIRK

In the C.S.W.O. Angling Area Cup fished over the River Clyde, Muirkirk Angling Association lifted the Cup. In fact, the local teams took first two places. The teams were:—1st—Muirkirk "A" Team—T. Frew, J. Blyth, T. Findlay, Jim Park, W. Cooke." Team—H. Hill, T. Sutherland, George Wallace, J. Menzies, Jim Davidson.

MORE SILVERWARE FOR MUIRKIRK

Yet another football honour came to Muirkirk when the local Churches League team defeated Lanemark 3—2 in the final of the League Cup at Logan. The team was—Ian McNair; Jim Lowe, Jim Graham; H. Campbell, Jim Ward, Jim Masterton; David Beck, John Masterton, David Muir, John Dempster, John Davidson.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1969**BIRTHS**

- McGARVA.—To Mr and Mrs Don McGarva (Margaret Brown) on 9th January; a daughter.
- CURRIE.—To Mr and Mrs Jim Currie (Marjorie Duncan) on 15th February; a daughter.
- FINDLAY.—To Mr and Mrs Peter Findlay (Doreen Rowe) on 25th March; a daughter.
- NEILSON.—To Mr and Mrs A. Neilson (Elaine Davis) on 27th March; a son
- ELSE.—To Mr and Mrs Steve Else (May Stark) on 14th April; a daughter.
- VALLANCE.—To Mr and Mrs Matthew Vallance (Gloria Welch) on 21st June; a daughter.
- STRICKLAND.—To Mr and Mrs Tom Strickland on 26th June; a daughter.
- NEIL.—To Mr and Mrs David Neil on 12th July; a son.
- GIRVAN.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Girvan on 16th October; a daughter.
- COWAN.—To Mr and Mrs Ian Cowan on 3rd November; a son

MARRIAGES

- MARTIN FEAY to CHRISTINE MURDOCH on 25th January.
- GILBERT McKAY to JANET KAYNE on 8th March.
- MARGARET WARD to DAVID SKILLEN on 15th March.
- ETHEL WYPER to WILLIAM MERCER on 6th June.
- JOHN MUIR to MOIRA WYLIE on 5th July.
- THOMAS MOYES to MARGARET WEIR on 25th July.
- EDWARD REED to CHRISTINE HOLLAND on 18th July.
- MARION HARRISON to HARVEY FYFE on 26th July.
- WILLIAM WOOD to ELEANOR SHIELDS on 9th August.
- DAVID NEAL to AGNES DICKSON on 30th August.
- WILLIAM SHAW to CHRISTINE COLLINS on 27th August.
- ANNE AULD to RONALD SMITH on 6th September.
- LAURENCE BORTHWICK to ANNE CALDWELL on 4th September.
- STUART HOLDEN to BARBARA MAY on 6th September.
- ALLAN THOMSON to ELIZABETH HANNAH on 24th October.

DEATHS

- HAUGH.—At Dumfries on 6th January, Janet Angus.
- MACLEAN.—At York on 3rd January, William Maclean; aged 76 years.
- MOFFAT.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd January, Mary Cranston, 10 Miller Road; aged 72 years.
- NEIL.—At Muirkirk on 2nd January, John Neil, 88 Henderson Drive; aged 65 years.

- BAIN.—At Ballochmyle on 6th January, Marion Prentice, 44 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 45 years.
- FINDLAY.—At Ballochmyle on 17th January, Agnes Findlay, 40 Main Street.
- HAUGH.—At Ballochmyle on 20th January, Margaret Steele, 5 Lovedale Crescent; aged 85 years.
- THOMSON.—At Glasgow on 7th February, Albert Thomson; aged 68 years.
- McCRONE.—At Ballochmyle on 18th February, Francis McCrone, 2 Miller Road; aged 68 years.
- BAIN.—At 44 Hareshaw Crescent on 21st February, Helen Yuille; aged 70 years.
- SPENCE.—At Cleland on 18th February, Gavin Spence (late of Glenbuck).
- WALKER.—At Glasgow on 22nd February, Nettie Wilson.
- BAIN.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd March, Mary Cowan, 11 Smallburn Drive; aged 56 years.
- BARRIE.—At Irvine on 3rd March, Helen McNally, late of 116 Wellwood Street; aged 72 years.
- MACINTYRE.—At Glasgow on 4th March, Agnes Ferguson (late of Heathfield, Muirkirk).
- WHITE.—At Plymouth on 20th February, Margaret White or Hill (formerly of Kames Row); aged 74 years.
- WILSON.—At Dumbarton on 26th February, James Wilson.
- WYLLIE.—At 79 Henderson Drive, on 11th March, Catherine Lumsden; aged 60 years.
- MURDOCH.—At Ayr on 13th March, Rebecca Kerr (formerly of Holmhead, Muirkirk); aged 84 years.
- ANDERSON.—At Irvine on 17th March, Janet Barrie; aged 75 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At Muirkirk on 31st March, Mary Anderson, 26 Glasgow Road; aged 63 years.
- HERRIOT.—At Ballochmyle on 7th April, Alexander Herriot; aged 51 years.
- BRADFORD.—At Irvine on 13th April, Rachel Dornan (late of 5 Wellwood Avenue); aged 53 years.
- CASAGRANDA.—At Ballochmyle on 9th April, Grace Hendry, 17 Stitt Place; aged 54 years.
- BRADFORD.—At 1 Hareshaw Crescent on 16th April, Stephen Bradford; aged 56 years.
- McCULLOCH.—At Wellwood Cottage, 48 Wellwod Street, on 21st April, Samuel McCulloch; aged 63 years.
- McDADE.—At Ballochmyle on 21st April, Margaret Murdoch, 13 Lapraik Avenue; aged 63 years.
- WARDEN.—At Ballochmyle on 16th April, Thomas Warden; aged 46 years.
- GILLEN.—At Irvine on 25th April, John Gillen, 36 Garronhill; aged 58 years.
- ROBERTSON.—At Kilmarnock on 6th May, William Robertson, 28 Lapraik Avenue; aged 69 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

BARR.—On 6th May, Thomas Barr; aged 44 years.

McCOUBRIE.—At Stirling on 9th May, Ritchie McCoubrie (late of Vass's Buildings, Glenbuck); aged 51 years.

PARKER.—At Ballochmyle on 20th May, Robert Parker, 19 Smallburn Drive; aged 67 years.

POOLE.—In Canada on 2nd June, Lester Poole.

McMILLAN.—At Biggart on 3rd June, John McMillan.

WHITE.—At Irvine on 11th June, Stephen White, 5 Garpel Avenue; aged three months.

THOMSON.—At 34 Glasgow Road on 21st June, John Thomson; aged 71 years.

WILSON.—At Ballochmyle on 24th June, Isabella Blyth, 34 Harwood Avenue; aged 67 years.

SMITH.—At Kilmarnock on 4th July, Jane Smith, 3 Lovedale Crescent; aged 52 years.

GRAY.—At 27 Pagan Walk on 10th July, Carol Gray; aged 3 months.

ROWE.—At Ballochmyle on 15th July, Janet Rowe, 32 Garonhill; aged 63 years.

KIRKWOOD.—At Ballochmyle on 31st July, Annie Dalgarno, 27 Wellwood Street; aged 69 years.

McCARTNEY.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd August, James McCartney, 81 Henderson Drive; aged 69 years.

MURPHY.—At 50 Main Street on 24th August, Williamina Dempster; aged 67 years.

MUIR.—At Dunstable on 28th August, John Muir; aged 55 years.

HILLDITCH.—At 3 Smallburn Drive on 4th September, Alice Cowan; aged 65 years.

PATERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 4th September, Helen Brady, 7 Stoneyhill Avenue; aged 59 years.

STITT.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd September, Jean Stitt, 92 Pagan Walk; aged 58 years.

HUNTER.—At Johannesburg on 21st September, Jess Gooding.

McINTOSH.—At Saltcoats on 23rd September, James McIntosh; aged 63 years.

KIRKPATRICK.—At Ayr on 27th September, Peg Wallace; aged 62 years.

MULLEN.—At Ballochmyle on 8th October, Mary Moran, 13 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 61 years.

DAVIDSON.—In Australia on 24th October, Minnie Hastings.

GRANT.—At Ballochmyle on 30th October, Alexander Grant, 54 Smallburn; aged 70 years.

HAZLE.—At Ballochmyle on 1st November, Helen Borthwick, 23 Middlefield Drive; aged 72 years.

HAYLOCK.—In New Zealand on 4th November, Agnes Floyd (late of Woodside Cottage).

JAMIESON.—At Ballochmyle on 12th November, Catherine Carruthers, 9 Smallburn Drive; aged 77 years.

MACKENZIE.—At Strathaven on 29th November, Duncan Mackenzie; aged 78 years.

BANKS.—At Hampshire on 2nd December, John Banks; aged 61 years.

FRISSIE.—At 20 Shawknowe Avenue on 5th December, Marion Rae; aged 77 years.

SEYMOUR.—At Solihull on 6th December, William Seymour.

BOLAND.—At 52 Main Street on 13th December, Agnes Boland; aged 56 years.

CROSBIE.—At Ballochmyle on 13th December, Agnes Danks, Clutha," Wellwood Street, on 13th December; aged 93 years.

SHAW.—At 74 Pagan Walk on 16th December, William Shaw; aged 89 years.

DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle on 28th December, Margaret Davidson.

MOFFAT.—At 2 Lapraik Avenue on 24th December, Isabella Moffat; aged 75 years.

BAIN.—At Cumnock on 30th December, Jane Wilson; aged 78 years.

HUGHES.—At Irvine on 31st December, Samuel Hughes (late of Meanlour Drive); aged 52 years.

**JIMMY BROWN**

CHAPTER SIXTY-THREE

(1970)

‘Advertiser’ Future Not Bright

It was obvious from my research work that information from the files of the “Advertiser” was more difficult to come by at this time, and in hindsight, I suppose this was to be expected. After all, Muirkirk at this stage was a declining village, and the “split” between the “Town” and the “Scheme” did little to help its image. The seemingly willy-nilly demolition of the old properties in the Main Street, with no plans for future development, caused a great deal of distress for local inhabitants, and this was fuelled by some bad publicity in the national week-end press.

The closure of Kirkgreen Co-operative and the Regal Cinema was another severe blow.

The “Advertiser” itself was beginning to feel the effects, with a decrease in advertising revenue, and a gradual fall in circulation were the ominous signs that all was not well. Indeed, at this time it was a struggle to fill the paper with news items.

The demolition of the old Picture House left the Printing Office, which was housed in the original small hall of the Temperance Hall, in a very exposed position. Already negotiations were taking place by the then proprietor, Mr John Samson, to acquire new premises, but it was not going to be an easy task to move, especially where the heavy printing equipment was concerned. The Council did offer Kinettles, next to the Regal, but this was not suitable.

But, to continue with my task.

APPOINTMENT

Muirkirk man, Professor Tom Symington, St. Mungo-Notman Professor of Pathology at Glasgow University, has been appointed first overall director of the Institute of cancer Research, London.

CONGRATULATIONS

For Muirkirk folks it is most interesting and satisfying to note that the headmaster at the new academy being built at Auchinleck will be Mr W. M. Crichton, former headmaster at Muirkirk Secondary School, who left us in 1967 to be headmaster in Stewarton.

ONE-MAN BUS

The first one-man bus to ply from Muirkirk on the Strathaven and Lanark - West Calder routes, started in January. It is a single decker, with the driver also collecting the fares.

CHANGES AT ST. THOMAS

In September Father C. Matthews left to take charge of Catrine Parish. He had been at Muirkirk for eight years, and was a firm favourite with his parishioners and the local residents in general. His place will be taken by Father J. Coyle, who comes to our village from Saltcoats.

RETIRAL

In November, Mr Albert Roy retired as a driver with the Central S.M.T. Coy. Mr Roy came to Muirkirk from Peebles back in 1925, the days of the Gala Coy. and the old open charabancs. Mr Roy has been in charge of the Muirkirk Depot since 1946. His colleagues marked the occasion with a presentation at the Bus Garage when Mr David Ross asked him to accept a wallet of notes.

OBITUARY

On the 14th November Muirkirk lost another well-known personality with the death of Mr Robert Smith, 4 Burns Avenue. Mr Smith came here from Motherwell in 1929 to work as a cutter in the Muirkirk Co-operative tailoring department. In his fellow-worker, Miss Agnes Hunter, he found his destined bride, and thereafter became, with her assistance, a thoroughly integrated and nationalised Muirkirkian, well accepted in the village circles. By 1939, he had his own tailoring business in the Main Street. In 1940 Mr Smith was ordained an Elder in Muirkirk Parish Church. In 1946 the office of Treasurer fell into his capable hands, remaining there throughout 18 years of competent service.

THE LINKIE BURN

The Linkie Burn's a wee bit burn
That rises 'yond the Quarry turn;
The Sluice is where it leaves the Lade,
Where boys and lassies often played,
Then by the Ladeside Football Park
Where many tried tae make their mark,
The Quarry Hole it trickles by
Where noo we pass wi' mony a sigh,
The Linkieburn it passes through,
Where lived the Poles and Spaniards too,
It tumbled doon those rocky steps
And by the Tunnel's station steps—
Then by the Foundry and Red Raw—
The queerest place I ever saw—
At Stableyard it turned again
Tae mak' its way tae Kames Fairm,
Near the Mill Bridge it joins the Ayr,
But it doesn't help the fishes there—
I've seen mair watter in the Terrace Spoot
Than this wee burn, without a doot,
But when the spates come tumbling doon
You see it then baith black and broon.

W. McCALL

OFF WITH THE OLD—ON WITH THE NEW

The old Secondary School at Furnace Road is in its final stages of demolition (April), but

The excavators are busy on the site at Irondale House on the founds for our new Primary School and Community Centre facilities.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Allan's Hair Fashions announced the opening of a new ladies' hairdressing salon at Pagan Walk.

LINK WITH THE PAST

Following the recent series of articles by "Haw Burn," concerning Muirkirk's Parish many years ago, and a reference to the activities locally of the Monks of Melrose, it was with special anticipation that we visited the Viaduct Mine at Glenbuck, to be shown around by the Manager, Mr Martin Mackin.

As mentioned previously in this column, some old workings were discovered which, at first it was thought, might have been driven by the monks, but now it is felt that the workings are far too extensive to be accredited to this source, and was probably a form of organised mining of later date.

Pick or chisel markings are clearly visible on the rock, and on the floor of the workings are well defined indentations possibly made by a wheel or even sledge runners or a basket.

There was also a pile of sand apparently used for stemming shots, but it was difficult to ascertain if explosives had been used, because in early days of mining we are told lime was used.

It was interesting to note that pillars of coal had been left as roof supports, and the large coal had been removed, leaving behind large quantities of dross.

Undoubtedly, it must have taken, many, many years to mine these seams, and at one part of our tour we were shown where a vertical pit had been driven down through hard rock to the seam below. However, at this point, the coal had never been removed, suggesting that an inflow of water might have prevented this.

NEW MINISTER

On Wednesday, 29th April, the Rev. Roy A. Stewart was inducted to the charge of Muirkirk Parish Church. Mr Stewart, who was ordained in 1946 had served in three previous Church of Scotland charges—Gillingham, Kent; Cairo, Egypt; and, latterly, Victoria Tollcross, Glasgow. Mr Stewart, who is 52 years of age, is married. Mrs Stewart was for some years a missionary in the Lebanon

ELECTION RESULTS

COUNTY COUNCIL

MATT. LOCHHEAD 619
 Unsuccessful—
 SAM PURDIE 509

DISTRICT COUNCIL

NAN FULTON 659
 THOMAS GIBB 622
 Unsuccessful—
 SAM PURDIE 453
 CATHERINE McSKIMMING 363

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Another sign of the changes taking place in the village, but this time in an economic sense, was the announcement that Muirkirk Co-operative Society Ltd. was changing its engagement to the Scottish Co-operative Retail Society.

SUCCESSFUL ANGLERS

For the second year in succession Muirkirk Working Men's Club won the West of Scotland C.I.U. angling competition, with about three pounds to spare. The team was composed of Gavin Lochrie, Matt. Walker, Tom Frew, Alex. McNair, Robert Ward, and John Strickland.

NEW HOUSES FOR MAIN STREET

At a meeting of Ayr County Council, there was submitted a report by the County Architect setting out his proposals for utilising gap sites in Muirkirk for housing purposes, as follows:—

AREA No. 1

The area of ground at present accommodates a large block known as Victoria Buildings, vacant except for two properties. The property adjoins the factory belonging to Muirtex Ltd., and it may be possible to arrange an excambion of ground with the firm to provide them with a suitable frontage to Main Street and the Council with ground for a small housing development with a pedestrian link to Lovedale Crescent.

AREA No. 2

This is an area adjoining the Printer's Shop in Main Street, and in order to complete a frontage of houses in Main Street in this area it may be necessary to acquire part of the Builders Yard belonging to W. & J. Brown.

AREA No. 3

This area is situated at the eastern end of Main Street, where the Council have demolished a number of houses. In addition, adjoining the Council's ground is the Masons Arms Hotel, which is in a derelict condition, having been destroyed by fire.

CLOSING OF REGAL CINEMA

With the closing—until further notice—of the Regal Cinema last Saturday, 18th July, Muirkirk is now without a cinema for the first time for many years.

We can remember, around fifty years ago, the travelling shows that came to the Temperance Hall before that venue became our regular Picture House. Then the building of the Pavilion at Smallburn gave Muirkirk a choice of two Cinemas, and after the demise of the latter, we got first the Regal, which ultimately became the New Regal.

Muirkirk was one of the first places in Scotland to have film shows seven days a week, and with two cinemas, at least four changes of programmes a week at each, and a fine selection of first-class films, we had many visitors—especially on Sunday nights, and long queues were very commonplace. In fact, at one time there were three performances on Saturday nights, and the picture houses enjoyed a boon.

With the advent of T.V., of course, the pattern changed, and indeed, for a village, we may have been fortunate to retain our cinema for so long in the circumstances. Many will regret to see The Regal go, whether for ever or not remains to be seen.

Incidentally, The Picture House (formerly the Temperance Hall) was demolished earlier this year.

CLOSE DOWN

For economic reasons, the Kirkgreen Branch of Muirkirk Co-operative Society was closed down in August. For very many years the Branch has served members at the top of the town faithfully and well, but, while one regrets the passing of this weel-kent establishment, the Society's shopping van services—a main feature of supplying the public demand nowadays—will see to it that the requirement of members will be met at their doorstep.

NEW OWNERS

The 'Cumnock Chronicle' has been taken over by a group comprising the Falkirk Herald and the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald. The owner of the Chronicle, Mr Duncan Ballantyne, who succeeded his father as editor and proprietor in 1929, now joins the board of the group

FATAL ROAD ACCIDENT

The community was deeply grieved and shocked to learn of the death, in an accident three miles east of Ayr on the Cumnock Road on 30th July, of a Muirkirk young man, Mr George Wallace, 44 Hareshaw Crescent. He was driving an articulated lorry and had just negotiated the tricky bend near Belston Farm when his vehicle jack-knifed and overturned down an embankment. The driver's cab was crushed and special equipment had to be used to free George. His body was not freed for two hours after the crash. His load of hundreds of gallons of paint in plastic containers had spilled from the skidding vehicle and the main road was closed for more than eight hours after the crash. George, who had spent a number of years in the Navy, was a very popular young man in the district, and much sympathy has been expressed for his wife and infant daughter, and the Wallace family, in their tragic bereavement.

RETIRAL

Mrs Sarah Reid retired after over 30 years' service as Headmistress at St. Thomas' R.C. School at Muirkirk. The occasion was marked by a presentation social at Sorn village Hall, presided over by Father Matthews.

Mrs Mary Ford, the oldest member of the congregation, handed over a lovely automatic tea-maker and a set of crystal glasses a token of esteem and appreciation from the members of the Parish, pupils and friends.

CLEARING THE WAY

The demolishers are busy clearing the remains of the familiar old Masons Arms Hotel at the top of the town.

Also going is the Quoiting Clubhouse, affectionately known as 'The Bughouse,' which had later served as the headquarters of the Girl Guides and Brownies.

The Masons Arms and the old quoiting green behind are bound up in the memories of many Muirkirkers and sporting fraternity from near and far—for in the old days many quoiting champions and celebrities attracted huge crowds to Muirkirk.

With new houses promised for the site, we hope to see a number of 'wee champions' gracing this airt in the not-too-distant future.

NEW SCHOOL

In November a very important event took place with the opening of our brand new Primary School on the site of the old Irondale House. The flitting operation was completed on 3rd November. This means that all the pupils from Main Street School and the Community Centre at the Southside are now accommodated under one roof. Of course, work is continuing on the adjoining I.F.E. Wing, with the administration offices, school kitchen and the Community Centre accommodation, so that it will be a wee while yet before the whole project is completed.

Pupils and staff alike find their new surroundings very pleasant to work in. The nine classrooms are large, bright and airy, and the greatly increased floor space allows the teachers to apply the new methods with greater freedom.

The whole of the inside of this building is beautifully appointed, with a well-lit broad corridor, four separate toilets, and every place is kept at an even temperature by night storage heaters.

Each classroom has its own emergency door leading directly to the outside of the building, so that in the event of an emergency the pupils will be able to evacuate the building in a matter of seconds.

Second Block

Staff and pupils alike are looking forward to the completion of the second block, as it will certainly be fitted to the same standard as the classroom block. When this is completed at the end of January, Muirkirk will have a School and Community facility second to none in the County for a place of this size.

VICTORIA BUILDINGS

In December the long-awaited demolition of Victoria Buildings was commenced. The Council have plans for this site, and we hope to have more details about these in future issues.

MINING APPOINTED

Mr William Livingstone, Kerlstone House, has been appointed Manager at Cairnhill Colliery.

FOOTBALL (Season 1969—70)

The League Cup this season was played on a home and away Section basis, and Muirkirk were in the group comprising Cumnock, Auchinleck, and Lugar. They got off to a tremendous start, beating Lugar, Talbot, and Cumnock 6—2, 6—2 and 5—1 respectively, and they qualified for the Quarter Final. This was against Cumnock and Muirkirk won by the only goal scored. The team was:—Merry; Cree, Shields; Speedie, Hunter, Gilhooley; Moffat, Bolton, Yuille, Hannah, and Dempster.

In the semi-final at Meadow Park Muirkirk caused the upset of the season by defeating Beith 4—3 (their first defeat so far). Team:—Merry; Weir, Shield; Cree, Hunter, Speedie; McKay, Bolton, Yuille, Hannah, Dempster.

The final was played at Townhead Par, Cumnock, when Kello Rovers provided the opposition, and the game ended in a goal-less draw. The replay did not take place until April,

FOOTBALL (Continued)

and this was a pity, because by them the Muirkirk team had "gone off the boil," and lost 2—0. Team:—Merry; Weir, Shields; Williams, Hunter, Speedie; Surgeon, Cross, Bolton, Morris, McKay.

In the West of Scotland Cup 1st round Muirkirk travelled to Bellshill and lost a close game 4—3.

In the 2nd round of the Scottish Cup they were away to Broxburn and went down heavily by 4—1.

And so, it was early darkness again for Muirkirk Juniors.

Muirkirk's teenage winger, local lad John Dempster made his senior debut with Queen of the South at Palmerston Park, Dumfries. John, playing at outside right, had a big say in his side's 4—2 win over Berwick Rangers. He opened the scoring in the 14th minute, and netted a second in the 40th minute, and we understand he was unlucky not to get a hat-trick. This puts Queen of the South into second place in the League.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1970**BIRTHS**

BONE.—To Mr and Mrs William Bone on 7th January; a daughter.

NEIL.—To Mr and Mrs Archie Neil (Rena Loy) on 12th April; a son.

HAZLE.—To Mr and Mrs James Hazle (Margaret Cook) on 21st April; a daughter.

BORTHWICK.—To Mr and Mrs Laurence Borthwick (Anne Caldwell) on 5th July; a son.

FYFE.—To Mr and Mrs Hugh Fyfe (Margaret Muncie) on 4th August; a daughter.

TILSTONE.—To Dr. and Mrs W. J. Tilstone (Angela Marshall) on 2nd September; a daughter.

MERCER.—To Mr and Mrs William Mercer (Ethel Wyper) on 20th October; a daughter.

DEWAR.—To Mr and Mrs John Dewar (Marjorie Marshall) on 19th October; a son.

PATERSON.—To Mr and Mrs Andrew Paterson (Dorothy Hannah) on 13th December; a son

HAMILTON.—To Mr and Mrs Ronald Hamilton (Janette Girdwood) on 16th December; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

GORDON GRANT to FLORENCE SMITH on 28th February.

DANIEL SNEDDON to RAY HAMILTON on 6th June.

JAMES HAZLE to ELIZABETH DEMPSTER on 27th June.

JAMES GRAHAM to SUSANNA AITKEN on 11th July

ROBERT SHAW to ENA BRECKNEY on 5th September.

CAMPBELL BECK to GEORGINA MURPHY on 26th September.

DAVID GAW to NANCY McDOWALL on 3rd October.

KENNETH THOMSON to CATHERINE ROWAN on 3rd October.

ALAN STEWART to ANN HODGE on 6th October.

BRIAN YOUNG to JOAN MORRISON on 9th October.

WILLIAM BRADFORD to ELLEN JOHNSTONE on 9th October.

BRIAN RICHMOND to NAN TAIT on 31st October.

JOHN McFEDDRIES to ROSEMARY WILSON on 31st October.

DEATHS

HIGGINS.—At Ballochmyle on 9th January, Andrew Higgins, 18 Carruthers Park; aged 82 years.

SAMSON.—At Ayr on 10th January, Marion Dunn, Burns Avenue; aged 87 years.

ALEXANDER.—At 20 Hawkshaw Terrace on 17th January, Mary McMillan; aged 86 years.

MONTGOMERY.—At 80 Henderson Drive on 19th January, Margaret Montgomery; aged 83 years.

McKERROW.—At Ballochmyle on 24th January, Agnes McKerrrow (late of Spireslack); aged 84 years.

CALDOW.—At 1 Lapraik Avenue on 28th January, Jean Smith; aged 68 years.

ENGLAND.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd February, James England, 29 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 75 years.

WILSON.—At Irvine on 1st February, Elizabeth Clark, 17 Wellwood Street; aged 82 years.

McKAY.—At 15 Lapraik Avenue on 2nd February, Gilbert McKay; aged 77 years.

STITT.—At 72 Henderson Drive on 12th February, Agnes Brown; aged 81 years.

MASTERTON.—At Holmhead on 19th February, Jane Park, 13 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 85 years.

FREW.—At Ayr on 9th March, Henry Frew; aged 48 years.

KELLY.—At Ballochmyle on 4th February, William Kelly, 11 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 61 years.

McCRORIE.—At 42 Garronhill on 10th March, Robert McCrorie; aged 40 years.

RAE.—At Kirkburnhead on 6th March, Jane McClymont; aged 86 years.

ARMSTRONG.—At 9 Burns Avenue on 16th March, Agnes Gibson; aged 90 years.

DALZIEL.—At Ballochmyle on 12th March, Isabelle Keddie; aged 68 years.

DICKSON.—At 5 Burns Avenue on 14th March, Frederick Dickson; aged 77 years.

McLARTY.—At 4 Smallburn Drive on 22nd March, John McLarty; aged 79 years.

CALDOW.—At Hamilton on 5th April, Robert Caldow; aged 76 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

WALLACE.—At 4 Wellwood Avenue on 2nd April, Robert Wallace; aged 79 years.

AIRD.—On 6th April, Helen Aird; aged 68 years.

CRUICKSHANK.—At Ballochmyle Hospital on 24th April, Walter Cruickshank, 71 Glasgow Road; aged 71 years.

JOHNSTONE.—At 27 Hawkshaw Terrace on 23rd April, Peggy Bone; aged 63 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Ballochmyle on 4th May, Robert Dempster, 22 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 20 years.

O'BRIEN.—At Ballochmyle on 11th May, Patrick O'Brien, 68 Pagan Walk; aged 64 years

RENNIE.—At Ballochmyle on 7th May, John Rennie, 68 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 62 years.

SMITH.—At Ballochmyle on 25th May, Archibald Smith, 98 Henderson Drive; aged 65 years.

KELLOCK.—At Ballochmyle on 31st May, Annie Johnstone (late of Furnace Road); aged 89 years.

MUIR.—At 13 Stoneyhill Avenue on 8th June, David Muir; aged 62 years.

WYPER.—At Irvine on 8th June, Hugh Wyper, 2 Stitt Place; aged 68 years.

LOGIE.—At Ballochmyle on 28th June, Margaret Parker, 7 Wardlaw Avenue; aged 77 years.

McKAY.—At Ballochmyle on 28th June, Mary McKay, 2 Middlefield Drive; aged 82 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Glasgow on 6th July, Euphemia Livingstone, 22 Harwood Avenue; aged 76 years.

DALZIEL.—At Ballochmyle on 9th July, Margaret Miller, 12 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 57 years.

SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 8th July, John Samson, 2 Pagan Walk; aged 74 years.

WALLACE.—As the result of an accident on 30th July, George Wallace, 44 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 29 years.

McCALL.—In Australia on 26th July, John McCall; aged 70 years.

McLACHLAN.—At Ballochmyle on 4th August, Jack McLachlan; aged 54 years.

DAVIDSON.—In Australia on 13th August, Hugh Davidson; aged 79 years.

KEAN.—At Irvine on 18th August, James Kean, 91 Henderson Drive; aged 58 years.

BROWN.—At Glasgow on 19th August, Anne Campbell.

WARDROP.—At Cumnock on 27th August, James Wardrop.

MILLAR.—At Holmhead on 6th September, Margaret Millar; aged 65 years.

THOMSON.—At 15 Furnace Road on 5th September, Robert Thomson; aged 65 years.

HAZLE.—At Ballochmyle on 7th October, Janet Hazle, 16 Smallburn ; aged 55 years.

BOLAND.—At 52 Main Street on 11th November, Sarah Moreland; aged 82 years.

JACK.—At Ballochmyle on 9th November, George Jack, 6 Bridge Street; aged 67 years.

LENNOX.—At Ballochmyle on 10th November, Thomas Lennox, 7 Colthart Drive; aged 67 years.

MONTGOMERY.—At Ballochmyle on 15th November, Mary Devlin, 98 Wellwood Street; aged 78 years.

SMITH.—At Ballochmyle on 14th November, Robert Smith (Master Tailor), 4 Burns Avenue.

DAVIDSON.—At 15 Stitt Place on 7th December, Alexander Davidson; aged 76 years

GRAY.—In Australia on 3rd December, John Gray (late of Muirkirk); aged 77 years.

ALBERT PLACE AND MASONS ARMS HOTEL

CHAPTER SIXTY-FOUR

(1971)

Official Opening of Muirkirk I.F.E. Wing and Primary School

A goodly company met in the main hall of the new I.F.E. Wing on Friday, 12th March, for the official opening ceremony, and it was not only a heartening experience, but a real eye-opener as well.

Mr Matt. Lochhead, County Councillor, was in the chair, and the opening ceremony was performed by Mr Jim Sillars, our popular M.P.

The platform party also included County officials, representatives of the contractors, etc., and the main audience was representative of all the community.

Mr Lochhead referred to the series of misfortunes culminating in the loss of the old school in Furnace Road, which the older generation remembered with pride in great degree, and always remembering the outstanding pupils who had made their mark in spheres all over the world. He felt certain that in years to come the younger generation would have the same veneration for Muirkirk Primary School.

Mr Jim Sillars, M.P., in declaring the School and I.F.E. Wing open, said that the building was a tangible sign that Muirkirk was far from the dying village that some folks had visualised. He knew that the County Council had the greatest faith in Muirkirk and he knew that all personnel at the County Buildings were ready and willing at all times to do all they could in the interests of Muirkirk. Looking over the new establishment it was at once apparent that the Education authority and the Architectural Department of Ayr Council were amongst the finest in the land.

The efforts at Muirkirk, too, had been very closely designed for a dual purpose—to cater for the primary educational needs of the young plus the important requirements of all stages of adult life. This careful consideration for local environment would bear fruit in that many who had rushed away to the large towns would come to realise that their very own village had far, far more to offer in the really important aspects of life.

Mr Sillars touched briefly on the very disturbing aspects of the proposed local government reform, and mentioned a rumour in London that the coal industry might get an overdue boost in the light of the world oil troubles, and he wished Muirkirk every future success.

Mr William Goudie, Vice-Convener of the County Council, and Mr Waddell, Assistant Director of Education, both added their good wishes for the success of the project.

After Tea, a tour of inspection was, as we have said, a real eye opener.

The large main hall, with its spacious stage-cum gymnasium, is something that Muirkirk has never had before—accommodation for a real, full-blown stage production if required. On Friday the mass of pot plants and flowers (from Kirkmichael) was the perfect example of how the front of the platform could be beautified and to us somehow reminiscent of flower show days in Muirkirk of around half a century ago.

The practical room (which can accommodate a bar for social functions), and brightly-furnished lounge—each with its own gorgeous view of Cairntable—and the kitchen and tea bar, plus generous toilets, together with the beautiful new school all combine to make a complex which should be an inspiration to the village for generations to come and which we trust will be treated with the respect and veneration it so justly deserves.

Community Involvement Committee Formed

At a special meeting on the Monday a Local Community Involvement Committee was formed, and the office-bearers were elected as follows:—

Chairman—Mr W. B. C. Beggs.; Secretary—Mr James Laidlaw.; Committee—S. A. Marshall, Miss N. France, Mrs J. McCulloch, George Park, Joseph Mackin, Miss Jenny McLean, Mrs A. Davidson, James Cannon, James McMurdo, Robert Brown, Mrs Farley, Mrs C. Moreland, John Bone, Mrs Shiela Montgomery.

I.F.E. New Youth Club

This new Club was commenced on the Tuesday night, when there was an enrolment of 70. The main hall and gymnasium were in full service for badminton, table tennis, batinton, boxing and table games.

OBITUARY

Miss Janet Murdoch Wallace Johnstone, a member of a highly respected family in Muirkirk, passed away on 2nd January at her home at 5 Furnace Road. She was born 87 years ago in the house just across the way (where Dunbar the grain merchants premises used to stand). One of our oldest inhabitants, Miss Johnstone was the second daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Sam Johnstone. She succeeded her grandmother in the early 1900's in the wee grocery shop at the top of Furnace Road, and which she carried on continuously till illness overcame her a few years ago, when the business was taken over by her brother, T. Johnstone & Sons. Many of our older readers in many parts of the world as well as the present inhabitants of the village, will have fond recollections of this quiet, homely, pleasant kirk-going lady and her wee shop with its rows of gleaming bottles of boilings and trays of succulent candy. What a pennyworth could do for our desires—and our morale!

LAYOUT PLAN

Considerable interest is being shown in the plan—now on view in the Post Office—which shows the layout of the new houses envisaged for a site on the North side of Main Street and stretching eastwards from The Stile up towards the Working Mens Club. The sketch shows some eight houses from the Stile, with landscaping behind, a further two on a site where our printing machine room now stands and four more fronted by a paved area plus a warden's house.

PROGRESS AT THE BOWLING CLUB

The final stages of the scheme of transformation at Muirkirk Bowling Club are now in progress and the small team of enthusiasts—who can take full credit for their dedication to the Club, and indeed to Muirkirk in the wider sense—hope to have the job finished by the start of the new season.

The story started just before the last playing season, when the lockers were removed from the Clubhouse, making way for comfortable wall upholstered seating, which with similar individual seats and suitable tables, combine to make a commodious and attractive clubroom, with a compact bar on one side, and ladies' and gent.'s toilets on the other.

An unobtrusive but highly efficient gas heating system ensures plenty of pleasant heat as required. Just the ideal clubhouse, we should think, for a refreshing drink after a game, or a dance, with a piano ready lined up for a sing-song.

The lockers, incidentally, have been accommodated temporarily in a commodious hut at the rear, but it is hoped eventually to accommodate these in another available space of the Clubhouse proper.

There is just one feature lacking at the moment—the full degree of loyal support—by members and officials, too—required to recover the considerable expense involved and in due course increase the benefits and the social comforts of all connected with this grand and old-established Club.

FOOTBALL EMERGENCY

In January, there was an encouraging attendance at an emergency meeting of Muirkirk Junior Football Club. After a full discussion an entirely new Committee of 17 members was elected. The officials are:—President—Mr Robert Parker; Secretary—Mr Michael Boland; Treasurer—Mr David Purdie.

COUNCIL NOTES

It was recommended that the premises formerly used by the Secondary Department of Muirkirk J.S.S. School, which are no longer required for day school purpose, be disposed of as follows:—

Kitchen—Offer for sale by public roup.

Dining Hall—Offer to Youth Service and Further Education Committee.

Furnace Road Building—Offer to Youth Service and Further Education Committee.

The Former Muirkirk Community Centre—Use as an Outdoor Centre.

Main Street Building—Earmark for development as a Nursery School.

FIRST FUNCTION

The first function to be held in the new Community I.F.E. Hall was the Herd's dance.

PAY-AS-YOU-ENTER

March saw the introduction of pay-as-you enter buses on the local Western S.M.T. routes. Our Central services have, of course, been using this method for some time now.

DEVELOPMENTS AT MUIRKIRK

A letter was received from Mr William Paterson, Convener of Ayr County Council, pointing out news of further improvements at Muirkirk:—

Former Regal Cinema

The Council have now reached agreement with the owner of the former regal Cinema, for purchase of the building, and this is now being completed. I am hoping that arrangements can be made for the demolition of the building, which is somewhat of an eyesore on entering the village.

Victoria Buildings

The Council's contractors expect that by the end of this week (8th February) they will have carried out all the main demolition work of the former Victoria Buildings. Immediate steps are to be taken to erect a scaffold along the gable of the adjoining property. The Council's Work Department will then be carrying out work to provide new chimney heads for the remaining property, and the face of the gable will be treated so that it can be left in a tidy condition. I hope to be able to tell your readers at a later date more of what is proposed to be done with the cleared site.

New Sewage Works

At the present time I should like to explain the detailed arrangements now to be carried out for the construction of a new sewage works at Muirkirk. Despite some improvements carried out by the Council in post-war years the effluent disposal in this area has been far from satisfactory. Priorities for carrying out new schemes, which are usually very costly (the proposed scheme for Muirkirk will cost over £150,000), have been such that it has been impossible to obtain approvals for all of the schemes which the Council wish to provide throughout the County. The County Council decided that Muirkirk's priority required action, and it is hoped that work on the new sewage scheme will start shortly.

I should explain that the scheme will involve the provision of four new pumping stations, which are necessary because of the varying levels of development in the village.

In the new works, treatment will be by aeration, as a result of which raw sludge will be produced which will be kept in covered storage tanks and removed periodically by tankers to the Council's treatment works at Barskimming, Mauchline.

5,000 Maximum Population

As I previously indicated, the maximum population which can be accommodated by the new works is 5,000 people. This allows of a modest expansion of the village, and also means that the Council can be certain to be able to deal with effluent from any new industrial development.

Advance Factory for Muirkirk

The Council have taken the decision to build an advance factory at Muirkirk, and negotiations have already been started for a site which I think will be most suitable.

LAPRAIK BURNS CLUB RESUSCITATED

At a meeting in the Central bar in March in was decide to resuscitate the old Muirkirk Lapraik Burns Club. The officials were elected as follows:—

President Mr William Livingstone
 Vice-President Mr Martin Mackin
 Secretary Mr Dick Ramsay.
 Treasurer Mr Robert Holland

MINISTER'S DEATH

The death has been announced of the Rev. Malcolm Pollock, a former Minister of Wellwood Church, Muirkirk, where he was inducted in 1942. Since his retirement in 1949, Mr Pollock has been living in Worcestershire.

DEATH OF ALLAN GEBBIE

A well-known Muirkirk man, Mr Allan Gebbie, died at Paisley on 7th July. Allan was one of our most talented footballers in the twenties, and played for the Battlefield in 1921. He was signed by the junior Athletic in 1922, and two years later he stepped up to the senior grade with St. Mirren, and in another two years he was the proud possessor of a Scottish Cup badge. That was the year when St. Mirren beat Rangers in the semi-final and Celtic in the final. Allan played with the Paisley Club for eleven years in all, and later he scouted for Barnsley. He was 69 years of age and had been ailing for some time past.

CUP WINNERS

A handsome silver cup and gold medals won by a Muirkirk team in the 5-a-side football competition at the recent Field Day at Cumnock, are on display at the Co-op. Gent.'s Shop. The proud winners—Martin Mackin, Ian Menzies, Philip Mackin, John Mitchell, William Beck, and substitute Angus Beck.

ANOTHER NEW SCHOOL

More good news for our village is that a new school for St. Thomas' R.C. children is in the offing.

Education authorities in Scotland have been granted £9.5 million for primary school building between 1971 and 1973, and Ayrshire, with £553,000, gets the third highest share.

Of this St. Thomas's, which, incidentally, is third on the list of Ayrshire priorities, is allocated £34,000 for a replacement school.

BACK IN THE FOLD

After being disbanded for many years, Muirkirk's old Lapraik Burns Club, which was recently resuscitated, is now once again affiliated to the Burns Federation. They retain their original Roll number—56.

NEW SESSION CLERK

Mr A. W. Taylor was duly installed as Session Clerk in Muirkirk Parish Church in October before the congregation. Mr George Bradford, Clerk to the Congregational Board, very kindly took over as acting Session Clerk last year in the expectation that Mr Taylor would relieve him at this time.

**A NEW HOME
FOR****“THE ADVERTISER?”**

Ayr County Council Housing Committee agreed—subject to approval of the Scottish Development Department, to proceed with the erection of sheltered housing on ground between the Working Men's Club and The Stile, involving the acquisition of the printer's premises in Main Street.

It was reported that the owner of the printer's shop, with whom the District Valuer was at present negotiating, was willing to dispose of his property to the County Council provided he can acquire on suitable terms that part of the former school kitchen at Furnace Road which has become surplus to the requirements of the Education Committee. The printer wished to make arrangements for his proposed new premises to be adapted as quickly as possible to accommodate heavy printing equipment which he is desirous of moving out of his old shop during the month of August.

In order to allow the sheltered housing development to proceed and the printer to move into his new premises timeously, it was agreed to remit with powers to the County Convener and Chairman of the Housing Committee, together with the Chairman of the Finance and Education Committees to deal with the matter.

THE FLITTING!

I find it very strange indeed that the only mention of the “Advertiser” Office move to Furnace Road was made in 9th September issue with this small notice:—

**“The Advertiser” will be operating
from our**

New Address at Furnace Road as from Monday First.

Even with the printing of the September 16th issue in the new premises at Furnace Road there was not a mention.

I can well remember the move, which entailed a lot of planning and hard work, and it all went pretty smoothly. The old newspaper printing press was left for the scrap man at Main Street, and a more up-to-date flat-bed Wharfedale machine was installed at Furnace Road, together with a Thomson Printing Press and an Intertype Hot Metal Type setting machine.

After the last issue was printed at Main Street, the forme containing the four pages of “The Advertiser” was carried over to Furnace Road, where it was dismantled, ready for setting up the first issue to be printed there. It was all very exciting and rewarding. I am sure there was not another printing office in the whole of Scotland with anything like the views we had of Cairntable and the surrounding countryside!

NEW VENTURE

Friday, 3rd December, saw the opening of a new business in Muirkirk in the form of “Marty's Boutique,” a ladies' and gent.'s clothing shop at 89 Main Street.

THE LATE MRS JAMES AULD

Muirkirk folks were grieved indeed to hear of the passing of Mrs James Auld, wife of Mr James Auld, Pharmacist, at her home at Darvel on 23rd November, in her 56th year.

During their many years' residence in Muirkirk, Mr and Mrs Auld were one of the most popular and highly respected couples in our village, and, with her husband, Mrs Auld played a prominent part in the life of the district. The Kirk, the Woman's Guild, the Boys' Brigade and all local organisations and any worthwhile cause had their whole-hearted support and practical help, and their good work will long be remembered by all who knew them. Mrs Auld's organisation and spontaneous help on the spot at the Kames Pit Disaster was something to remember and cherish.

Readers will join with us in expressing deepest sympathy with Mr Auld and his son, Charles, along with Mrs Auld's sister, Mrs Tom Allan, in their sad bereavement.

FOOTBALL (Season 1970—71)

Muirkirk Juniors got away to a very indifferent start in the new season, and despite beating Talbot 5—1 in the League Cup, they failed to qualify. The team was: Ritchie; Gilmour, Shields; Williams, McManus, Wilson; Hannah, Cook, Fowler, Donnelly, Scott.

The Juniors were on the end of quite a few heavy defeats, including a 9—1 drubbing by Cumnock.

In the 1st round of the West of Scotland Cup they lost 4—2 at home to Shotts; and in the Ayrshire Cup away to Beith, they went down 7—2.

In the 2nd round of the Scottish Cup away to Witburn they had a creditable 1—1 draw, but in the replay at Ladeside Park, Witburn won 3—2. Muirkirk team:—Smith; Williams, Hunter; Wilson, Bryden, Speedie; Hannah, Campbell, McCulloch, Fowler, Donnelly.

They did manage to beat the Talbot again at Ladeside Park, 4—3, but by the turn of the year all interest had gone.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1971**BIRTHS**

MUIR.—To Mr and Mrs John Muir on 9th March; a daughter

KIRKLAND.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Kirkwood on 10th March; a daughter.

PURDIE.—To Mr and Mrs David Purdie on 4th March; a son.

BRADFORD.—To Mr and Mrs George Bradford (nancy Todd) on 13th August; a son.

REED.—To Mr and Mrs Edward Reed (Christine Holland); a daughter.

CURRIE.—To Mr and Mrs James Currie on 14th October; a son

DEMPSTER.—To Mr and Mrs Alex. Dempster (Jean Muir) on 20th October; a son.

DODDS.—To Mr and Mrs William Dodds (Eleanor Hazle) on 27th October; a son.

HAZLE.—To Mr and Mrs James Hazle (Ellis Dempster) on 5th November; a son.

McDOUGALL.—To Mr and Mrs Duncan McDougall (Jean Bradford) on 18th November; a son.

HOLLAND.—To Mr and Mrs George Holland on 30th November; a son.

BARRIE.—To Mr and Mrs Dan Barrie (Jean Anderson) on 20th December; a daughter.

CASAGRANDE.—To Mr and Mrs Don Casagrande on 13th December; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

JOHN ALEXANDER to BARBARA CRAWFORD on 20th February

KENNETH WYLLIE to MARGARET MEACHIN on 27th March.

GEORGE WYLLIE to LINDA WATSON on 13th March.

GEORGE DAVIDSON to JANETTE HARRISON on 7th May.

JAMES KELLY to MARION McSKIMMING on 11th June.

JOHN MILLER to CATHERINE STEVENSON on 5th June.

CRAIG SCOTT to GRACE WYPER on 26th June.

RICHARD BAIN to ELIZABETH HOUSTON on 3rd July.

WILLIAM COYLE to MARIE BOLAND on 3rd July.

THOMAS BRADFORD to AGNES KENNEDY on 10th July.

HUGH WYPER to MARGARET DUNLOP on 23rd July.

THOMAS FULTON to AGNES WALES on 4th September.

AGNES SCOTLAND to JAMES MILLAR on 28th August.

ARCHIE ANDERSON to ELIZABETH PURDON on 3rd September.

ROBERT CLEGG to JANICE CRAWFORD on 11th September.

THOMAS WOODFINE to JOAN McGARVA on 4th September.

MAUREEN KENNEDY to DAVID YOUNG on 24th September.

BETTY WELSH to ROBERT HAZLE on 18th September.

MARY McDOWALL to JAMES McDADE on 23rd October.

ROBERT McCORMICK to ALICE COWAN on 27th November.

BARRY JOHNSTONE to GEORGINA REEVES on 11th Dec.

DEATHS

- JOHNSTONE.—At 5 Furnace Road on 2nd January, Janet Johnstone.
- DODDS.—At Kilmarnock on 8th January, Agnes Samson; aged 83 years.
- GEBBIE.—At 14 Pagan Walk on 8th January, George Gebbie; aged 48 years.
- LAIDLAW.—At 44 Harwood Avenue on 8th January, William Laidlaw; aged 79 years.
- SHAW.—At Glasgow on 4th January, Jean Thomson; aged 88 years.
- MORELAND.—At Luton on 15th January, Andrew Moreland; aged 36 years.
- CURRIE.—At Balderran, Wellwood Street, on 24th January, Mary Penman; aged 58 years.
- MENZIES.—At 2 Hawkshaw Terrace on 26th January, John Menzies; aged 58 years.
- SEMPLE.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd January, Mary McKerrow, Tardoes Farm; aged 83 years.
- TAYLOR.—At Falkirk on 24th January, Margaret Vallance.
- BONE.—At Carluke on 27th January, George Bone; aged 67
- DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd February, Hugh Davidson, 2 Wellwood Crescent; aged 69 years.
- HILL.—At 36 Henderson Drive on 6th February, Mary Parker; aged 82 years.
- RUSSELL.—At Ballochmyle on 6th February, William Russell, 12 Middlefield Drive; aged 65 years.
- CAVIN.—At Kilmarnock on 12th February, Anne Bell, 46 Henderson Drive.
- MENZIES.—At Ballochmyle on 10th February, Elizabeth Crosbie, 3 Miller Road; aged 72 years.
- WILSON.—At Glasgow, David Wilson (late of Lightshaw Cottagw); aged 63 years.
- DUKE.—At Wolverhampton on 6th February, Vi Duke; aged 71 years.
- BRADFORD.—At Glasgow on 14th March, Elizabeth Bradford, late of 42 Smallburn; aged 92 years.
- TAYLOR.—At Ballochmyle on 16th March, Anne Vallance, 28 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 78 years.
- TURNER.—At Ballochmyle on 14th March, Mary Cree, 10 Hareshaw Crescent; aged 56 years.
- BULLOCH.—At Ballochmyle on 19th March, Mary Grant, 8 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 67 years.
- MOFFAT.—At Ballochmyle on 19th March, Elizabeth Moffat, 29 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 65 years.
- WYLIE.—At High Wycombe on 15th April, Thomas Wylie; aged 66 years.
- ANDERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 18th April, Hugh Anderson, Nether Wellwood..
- CUMMING.—At Holmhead on 23rd April, Helen Cumming, 24 Lovedale Crescent; aged 88 years.
- SLOAN.—At Ballochmyle on 25th April, Samuel Sloan, 28 Carruthers Park; aged 67 years.
- CROSBIE.—At Edinburgh on 2nd May, Richard Crosbie, late of Glenbuck.
- MUIR.—At Ballochmyle on 9th May, Margaret Alexander, 35 Stoneyhill Avenue.
- PRINGLE.—On 11th May, Robert Pringle, late of Muirkirk.
- SAMSON.—At Paisley on 10th May, John Samson.
- MacDONALD.—At Holmhead on 11th May, James MacDonald, ex.C.S.M., R.S.F., late of Muirkirk.
- ARCHIBALD.—At Kilwinning on 17th May, Elizabeth Hogg, late of Hope Villa, Glasgow Road; aged 74 years.
- McKAY.—At Ballochmyle on 18th May, Robert McKay, 46 Main Street; aged 64 years.
- BROWN.—At 2 Stoneyhill Avenue on 26th May, John Brown; aged 68 years.
- ALLAN.—At Ballochmyle on 5th June, Robert Allan, 105 Henderson Drive; aged 78 years.
- MULLEN.—At 45 Garronhill on 5th June, John Mullen; aged 83 years.
- McFARLANE.—Tragically, in a road accident, on 11th June, Mary McFarlane.
- BRADFORD.—On 24th June, Christina Beck, 10 Lapraik Avenue; aged 61 years.
- STODDART.—At Paisley on 19th June, William Stoddart, late of Shawknowe Avenue; aged 63 years.
- COPELAND.—At 10 Shawknowe Avenue on 4th July, Ellen Gray Wilson; aged 84 years.
- BLACK.—At Cumnock on 16th July, Jean Thomas, late of 58 Main Street; aged 80 years.
- HARVIE.—At Ballochmyle on 8th August, James Harvie, late of 46 Shawknowe Avenue; aged 72 years.
- ANDERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 13th August, James Anderson, 30 Harwood Avenue; aged 73 years.
- SMITH.—At 8 Meanlour Drive on 13th August, Simon Smith; aged 64 years..
- ROLLETT.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd August, John Rollett; aged 76 years.
- McCULLOCH.—At Ballochmyle on 30th August, Agnes McCulloch, 20 Carruthers Park; aged 74 years.
- ANDERSON.—On 2nd September, Isobel Anderson, 28 Harwood Avenue; aged 64 years.

DEATHS (Continued)

WARDROP.—At Biggart Hospital on 6th September, John Wardrop; aged 68 years.

BARRIE.—At 38 Garronhill on 8th September, Daniel Barrie; aged 38 years.

SMITH.—At Glasgow on 28th September, James Smith, late of 12 Wellwood Avenue.

BELL.—At Irvine on 12th October, Mary Park, formerly of 46 Henderson Drive; aged 81 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Shotts on 23rd October, Margaret Dempster; aged 67 years.

BARRIE.—At 17 Pagan Walk on 31st October, Ninian Barrie; aged 71 years.

CRAIG.—On 28th October, Isabella Kerr (Tib).

RINN.—At Belvidere on 28th October, Mary Bradford, late of 13 Wellwood Avenue.

ROBB.—At 28 Hawkshaw Terrace on 19th October, Christina Lawrie; aged 89 years.

SIMPSON.—At Ballochmyle on 29th October, Margaret Semple, Tardoes Farm; aged 44 years.

ROBB.—At Newall on 3rd November, Margaret Robb.

AULD.—At Darvel on 23rd November, Janet Dunn; aged 56 years.

SLIMMON.—On 19th November, Mary Kay, 74 Henderson Drive; aged 63 years.

BURNS.—At 14 Harwood Avenue on on 27th November, Robert Burns; aged 81 years.

DEMPSTER.—At Ballochmyle on 25th November, Robert Dempster, 20 Carruthers Park; aged 63 years.

MURRAY.—At Ayr on 27th November, James Murray, 20 Garronhill; aged 65 years.

CLARK.—At Irvine on 5th December, Andrew Clark, 17 Wellwood Avenue; aged 90 years.

DAVIDSON.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd December, James Davidson; aged 80 years.

TIMMINS.—At Irvine on 6th December, Joseph Timmins, 41 Pagan Walk; aged 5 years.

GIRDWOOD.—On 1st December, Isobel McCall; aged 62 years.

RUSSELL.—At Ballochmyle on 15th December, William Russell, Irondale Cottage; aged 27 years.

MENZIES.—At 12 Henderson Drive on 9th December, Richard Menzies; aged 77 years.

BALLANTYNE.—At Dalmellington on 23rd December, James Ballantyne; aged 72 years.

GILCHRIST.—At 15 Colhart Drive on 28th December, John Gilchrist; aged 71 years.

MUIRKIRK HIGHER GRADE SCHOOL

CHAPTER SIXTY-FIVE

(1972)

TRANSFER OF BUSINESS

THE
Muirkirk Advertiser
 AND DOUGLASDALE GAZETTE
 PRINTERS and PUBLISHERS
 FURNACE ROAD — MUIRKIRK KA18 3QQ

JOHN SAMSON

Wishes to announce that he is retiring from business as from 31st January, 1972, and takes this opportunity, after 51½ years in the "Advertiser" Office, first as an apprentice, then as a journey-man, and for the better part of 30 years, as Proprietor and Editor, of expressing grateful thanks to his many friends, colleagues, customers, contributors, staff (past and present), advertisers, readers, and correspondents for their co-operation and loyalty over the years, which has contributed to a full and satisfying career.

As most folks are aware, we have just completed the removal of our business from Main Street to the former School Kitchen at Furnace Road, a step taken willingly in co-operation with the County Council to assist in the forthcoming redevelopment of Main Street, and involving a considerable amount of planning and hard work, and accomplished without loss of production.

It is specially gratifying to report that, with modification of our new building, replacement and modernisation of plant, the firm is now better equipped by far for its purpose than ever before. This latter operation, too, involved the co-operation of many—County Council officials, builders, joiners, electricians, engineers, plumber, the Gas Board, the Telephone Service, and the Electricity Board, and others—not forgetting the hauliers and casual "flitters"—and here again the willing assistance and co-operation have afforded us the fullest satisfaction of tasks readily and skilfully completed.

My successor, Mr JAMES TAYLOR, who has been in the firm and my right-hand man for nearly 25 years, is fully conversant with the needs of our customers, and will carry on the good work and tradition of the old firm with whole-hearted enthusiasm. I trust he will have the same measure of support and confidence which we have always enjoyed, and, of course, I will always retain the keenest interest in the business and the village, and may still yet be of a little assistance now and then, if required.

JAMES TAYLOR

in taking over the business as above, can also associate himself in the words of thanks and encouragement, and hopes, by strict, personal attention to business, and executing instructions expeditiously, confidentially, and as economically as possible to merit a share of public patronage.

THE MINERS' STRIKE

A strike by the miners nationwide started at midnight on Saturday, 8th January, and events locally were recorded as follows in the relevant issues:—

January 13.—Local miners, in common with workers in the mining industry throughout the country, are involved in the national stoppage in their claim for higher wages. The strike began at midnight on Saturday. This is the first national strike in the mining industry since 1926. Older folk in the village will have unpleasant memories of the consequences of that stoppage, and we can only hope that a speedy and amicable settlement can be found, as no one cherishes the hardships which a strike can cause.

January 20.—The miners are now in the second week of their national strike in pursuit of a rise in wages. Both the N.C.B. and the N.U.M. are deeply entrenched, and at time of writing there seems to be little hope of an early settlement. Life in the village remains normal, but with the other Unions now pledging support to the miners in their fight, disruptions in other services seems inevitable, and we may be faced with power cuts in the near future. We understand that the local Gas Works have enough stocks to guarantee the supply of gas in the village for several weeks. We sincerely trust that an early settlement will be found to this dispute, and that there will be no repetition of the 1926 strike, when the miners were out of work from 30th April to 30th December. Then they went back to work virtually worse off than when they declared the strike.

January 27.—The National strike by mineworkers is now in its third week, and as yet there is no sign of a break in the deadlock.

February 3.—The miners are now in the fourth week of their national stoppage, with still no sign of a settlement. The present cold snap brought the first adverse effects of the strike to the village on Tuesday, when there was a six per cent. reduction in electricity voltage at certain periods during the day.

February 10.—The miners are now in the fifth week of their strike and Muirkirk folks seem to be faring not too badly as far as fuel goes. The old and infirm have been receiving coal deliveries and at time of writing there have been no power cuts. We understand that the local Gas Board have enough supplies to last several weeks, although it was pointed out that power cuts could curtail gas production. At the weekend a squad of volunteer workers were busy felling trees at Dalfram Avenue, and these (about 4½ tons) were sawn into logs and distributed to old folks in the village on Sunday night. We understand that a considerable amount more will be available this week.

February 17.—The miners' strike is now in its sixth week, but with another wage offer being made by the N.C.B. and the Government convening a court of enquiry there is some hope that a settlement may be made soon.

THE MINERS' STRIKE

(Continued)

THE "ADVERTISER" AND THE POWER CUTS

While every effort will be made to publish the "Advertiser" during the present power crisis, with the threat of cuts hanging over us, we cannot therefore guarantee publishing on time.

While every effort will be made to publish as normal, it might be necessary to curtail advertisements and news, and perhaps even the size of the "Advertiser."

We ask readers and advertisers to bear with us during this difficult time, and sincerely hope that it will be of a short term duration.

February 17.—Because of a likely cut in power supplies, the dance under the auspices of Muirkirk Juniors, and scheduled for Saturday, had to be cancelled. Over the weekend Muirkirk escaped the power cuts experienced by other parts of the country, and at the time of writing (Tuesday afternoon) there have been no cuts this week. We understand that one is scheduled for Wednesday, and as a result Muirtex Factory will not be working that day.

February 24.—With the Wilberforce Inquiry recommending substantial wage rises in all mining grades and the miners voting on the issue this week, it is anticipated that there will be a return to work on Monday. If this transpires the strike will have lasted seven weeks. However, the effects of the stoppage are still with us, and it would appear that the resultant power crisis will remain for a few weeks yet. Muirkirk had its first electricity cut on Wednesday of last week, when the power supply was disconnected for three periods (a total of approximately nine hours), with a repeat of the situation on Saturday. With the street lighting system almost non-existent, it reminds one of the "black-out" days of the second world war.

March 2.—End of Strike—As was generally anticipated, the miners, with a substantial majority, accepted the terms offered by the Wilberforce Inquiry, and after a seven weeks' stoppage, work was resumed on Monday. With the country as a whole still suffering from the effects of the strike, Muirkirk had its share of electricity cuts last week. There were two periods of cuts on Wednesday and Saturday, and one on Sunday.

March 9.—Life in the village got back to normal at the week-end following the end of the power cuts last week. On the whole Muirkirk came off better than some places with regards to electricity cuts. Last Wednesday (the day restrict-

ions ended) there was only one cut in the village—from 6-9 p.m. The street lighting system was back to normal on Saturday night, much to the relief of pedestrians and motorists alike. During the crisis it has been "business as usual" at the Working Men's Club, where a hired generating unit supplied the power.

THE RIOT OF COALBURN

The recent coal strike prompted a well-known Muirkirker, Mr William Blackwood, J.P., of Douglas, to write to us referring to the research efforts on past history by his friend, Mr John Hamilton, Coalburn, and appropriately enough at this time, a report on "The Riot of Coalburn," an incident that occurred at Bankend Colliery, Coalburn, away back on 6th September, 1894, during a coal strike, when a crowd estimated at three to four hundred miners marched to picket the colliery and try and persuade the workers there to stop working. From the very full report which appeared in the press at the time, the proceedings started in good humour, with two bands, one flute and one brass, both playing to enliven the proceedings. We note that a group led by Mr John Colthart, miners' agent, had marched from Muirkirk.

To cut it short, a somewhat noisy encounter with a group of Lanarkshire police ended with two men, William Hunter and Daniel McMillan, miners, Glenbuck, unfortunate enough to be charged at Lanark Sheriff Court in the well-known terms of "forming part of a riotous mob . . . obstructing . . . and assaulting the police." Both got thirty days imprisonment for their part in the picketing, but, as we remarked, a great to-do was made of the incident, the trial lasting from 11 o'clock forenoon till eight o'clock in the evening.

A long time ago, right enough, but Mr Blackwood tells us that Mr John Stitt, of Douglas, still remembers it well.

We thank Mr Hamilton for a perusal of the lengthy, but interesting report, in which, of course, there is a parallel on a much bigger scale in recent events, this time, happily, with much more satisfactory results for our mining friends.

FOOTBALLER HONOURED

It was indeed gratifying to note that Mr William Paton Hight, a Kilmarnock man, has been awarded the M.B.E. for services to Cumbernauld Development Corporation.

Mr Hight was a promising football player, and gained schoolboy international honours when he played for Scotland against, England, Ireland, and Wales.

He later played in English League football with Portsmouth, and after service with the Royal Navy during the war, returned to Ayrshire to play with Muirkirk Juniors.

Older readers will recall better days at Ladeside Park during the late forties when Willie Hight turned in some sterling performances for Muirkirk Juniors at left half. Here is one of the teams Willie was a member of:—Mackin; McAttee, Stillie; Ballantyne, Mair, Hight; Kelly, Steele, Inglis, Kinnaird, McIntosh.

ANOTHER NEW FACTORY FOR MUIRKIRK

This week (March 20) we are pleased to welcome our new neighbours at Furnace Road, G. K. Wear—a new firm who have taken over the former School Canteen as a small factory.

This is an encouraging development so far as the village is concerned, and work commenced on Monday with a work force of ten women. With a full order book, the firm hopes to increase the labour force to a total of about thirty within eight-months.

A comprehensive range of high-class ladies' wear is produced, including skirts, dresses, kilts, costumes, coats, etc.

A considerable amount of alterations have been made to the existing building, including an office, store room, and pressing room. Thanks are due to the various contractors and tradesmen and other bodies who made it possible to have the work completed in about two weeks' time.

Eight new machines and a pressing unit have been installed, and in charge of production is Mr Robert Keenan.

MINISTER RETIRES

Local folks will be sorry to learn of the premature retiral, due to health reasons, of Rev. Roy Stewart, Minister of Muirkirk Parish Church, as from 28th May. Mr Stewart was ordained into the charge in 1970. During his comparatively short stay here Mr Stewart has taken a keen interest in local history, and his contributions in these columns were greatly appreciated, both by readers at home and abroad.

BOWLING SUCCESS

At Kilbirnie in September the final of the Ayrshire Masonic Bowling Trophy was played between Lodge St. Thomas, No. 201, and Lodge St. Maurs, Kilmarnock, No. 1398. Muirkirk emerged god winners by 19 shots to 13. The winning rink was composed of Bros. F. Crawford, H. Walker, D. Towle, and H. Welsh (skip). This is the fourth time in eight years that this cup has come to Muirkirk.

GOLF CLUB FORMED

In November, after a lapse of over twenty years, Muirkirk Gold Club was reborn at a largely-attended public meeting. The officials were elected as follows:—President—Mr James Taylor; Secretary—Mrs Robert Farley; Treasurer—Mr Andrew Samson; and Messrs John Kennedy, David Weir, William Wallace, David Conway, Ewen McConnachie, David Samson, Robert Holland, Robert Hamilton, James Miller, Father Coyle, Brian Murray, Mrs Peter Foster, and Mrs John Wylie. It was decided to make tentative enquires to the possibility of opening a nine-hole course locally.

THREE MORE CUPS FOR MUIRKIRK

At Dalbeattie Bantam Show local fanciers were well amongst the prizes. Mr John Girdwood had three 1sts, two Specials and a Cup with Black Rosecombs. Mr John Blyth had two 1sts, three Specials, Cup, and Rosette for Best Soft Feather in Show with Black Pekins. Mr John Hazle had two 1sts with White Wyandottes, 1st with a Blue Wyandotte; 3rd with a Black Wyandotte; Cup, three Specials, Rosette, and Diploma for Best Wyandotte

RETIRAL OF MR JOHN SAMSON

Mr John Samson, Editor and proprietor of "The Muirkirk Advertiser" for almost thirty years, retired on 28th January. Mr Samson, who was educated at Muirkirk Schools and Cumnock Academy, started in 1920 as a 13-year-old apprentice with the late Mr William Shaw Smith, founder of the firm, who started up the business in Main Street over eighty years ago. Incidentally, Mr Smith left his mark on the firm, which has continued and will no doubt continue over the years.

With his many interests, Johnnie Samson was well-known over a wide area. He has been a life-long musical enthusiast, playing solo cornet with Muirkirk Parish Silver Band and assisting many other district bands from time to time, and played in the two local amateur orchestras which existed at one time. Samson's Dance Orchestra was a feature of the local scene for many years, and he also guested and contested with county dance bands.

A pigeon fancier, too, he was treasurer of the local Ornithological Society and of the Southside Flying Club for many years, and gained quite considerable success with his racing pigeons in both the racing and exhibition spheres.

At the week-end, Mr James Taylor, the new Editor-proprietor of the "Advertiser" and its accompanying letterpress printing business, and who also has had a long connection with the firm, on behalf of the staff, presented Mr Samson with a memento of the occasion, along with all good wishes for a long and happy retirement, and the recipient returned suitable thanks for the handsome gift, thanked all for their loyal service and comradeship, and wished every success to Mr Taylor and his assistants in the new premises recently acquired at Furnace Road.

NEW DOCTOR

Our new Doctor, Doctor P. L. Ganvir, who is now in partnership with Doctor Weir, is settling in nicely in the village.

MUIRKIRK ON STD

On 15th March Muirkirk Telephone Exchange was connected to the STD system (Subscriber Trunk Dialling). As well as local calls, subscribers will now be able to dial direct "

NEW SHOP

On Friday, 30th March, Mr Tom Murray, former Branch Manager of Muirkirk Co-operative Society, opened his new shop, Murray's Discount Store, in the premises which housed the former Co-operative Chemist Shop, and latterly James Pringle's Cycle Shop.

NEW MINISTER

After preaching as sole nominee for the vacancy at Muirkirk Parish Church, The Rev. James L. Guthrie was duly accepted.

LANDSCAPING

Kames Colliery waste bin is to be included in Ayrshire County Council's programme of rehabilitation of waste ground, and it is hoped that this task will be completed by the summer of 1973.

BYGONE DAYS

Last week our notes were directed, through some welcome correspondence, to events back towards the end of the last century, with an incident at Coalburn in 1894, in which local folks were involved.

In the last week (March 30 issue) bulldozers have been busy rapidly clearing the site in Main Street where the Temperance Hall and our old printing workshop stood for many a day.

This operation has had the effect of jogging our own thoughts and memories, and a bit of hearsay, of Muirkirk about the time referred to.

THE TEMPERANCE HALL

The Temperance Hall, which in later years became better known as The Picture House, was erected some ten years prior to the Coalburn incident, about 1884, and what an important event to the village that would be indeed. We remember being told that when it was being built, or just afterwards, a terrific gale blew the roof off the new building, but whether it was the original or replacement roof that we remember right up till the main hall was demolished just a few years ago, the solid, semi-circular and extremely well-built superstructure was a lasting tribute to the workmanship and the materials used in these days. Its solidity was apparent in more recent years when the otherwise substantial walls began to show the strain of its weight.

Geordie Lees's Brae

The site now cleared was part of a field owned by Geordie Lees of the period—the Temperance Hall Brae was then known as Lees's Brae, and it was on this field that most of Muirkirk's visiting entertainers pitched their tents and performed for the villagers.

When one considers that in these days the local workers' summer holidays seemed to consist of the Saturday following the Cattle Show in June and the Old Fast Day in July, a visiting "show" between times must have been of extra-special significance. In our own youth, we have heard the "auld anes" of the period refer to these entertainments with enthusiastic enthusiasm. Incidentally, there was no "booking up" for the holidays at that time. The June holiday invariably consisted of a picnic to the top of Cairntable (weather permitting) and the July holiday of a day-trip to Ayr for a "paddle" in the briny.

The Hall

Returning to the Temperance Hall with its fine main and lesser halls, ante and Committee rooms, it naturally became the hub of village life, social and otherwise. Meetings of all kinds, public and committee, weddings, dances "big" and public, the flower and the bird shows, concerts, contests—vocal, variety, and instrumentalist—and entertainments, from the magical to the melodious, in both halls all contributed for many years to keep this a busy, though strictly-run establishment.

Friendly societies, like "The Rechabites," "The Gardeners," "The Foresters," "The Shepherds," etc., all had their headquarters here, and events which still remain fresh in our memory are the Co-operative annual socials (sometimes nicknamed the "Store Guzzles"), in which really top-line artistes invariably appeared—musical artistes, we mean, although there

were the usual "gourmands" (big eaters), too—the childrens' operettas, and the early old folks re-unions. Also prominent were the Salvation Army, who usually had two active lassies conducting meetings for the youngsters and adults in the lesser hall.

Then came the advent of "The Pictures." From the "magic lantern" shows came the periodic visits from the travelling "moving pictures," and eventually the Hall became a permanent cinema, although concerts, socials, and theatrical productions, etc., were put on from time to time, with the seats being removed for the dances which followed into the "wee sma' 'oors."

"The Advertiser Office."

About the same period as the Hall was built, Mr William Shaw Smith, a Carnwath man, with printing and stationery experience in Lanark, Edinburgh, Alloa, and Arbroath, set up a small business in Main Street, and was in his third premises—all within a stone's throw of the Temperance Hall—when the office perished along with an ironmonger's shop and houses above in a disastrous fire in the two-storey red sandstone building similar too and adjoining that still standing just west of The Stile.

Then the composing room of "The Advertiser" was transferred to the Lesser Temperance Hall, with the machine-room and machinery, which had escaped damage in the fire, being re-erected behind the Hall. So it was that the demolition of our old printing office last week removed the last traces of the Temperance Hall.

A New Chapter

"Gone, but not forgotten," you might say, but, happily, it is just a case of "off with the old and on with the new," for the site is earmarked for a housing development which will play an important, though perhaps not so conspicuous a part in Muirkirk's future

"DEWS OF CAIRNTABLE"

There has been handed into the Office a carefully preserved label from a bottle of "The Dew of Cairntable," a blend of whisky of which William Murdoch, Grocer and Merchant, Muirkirk, was the sole proprietor. The label, lithographed in brown, white, and gold, depicts "Sanquhar Brig and Haunted Garpel" (we quote as printed), with a rather strange looking reproduction of Cairntable in the background.

This set us wondering who or what "haunted" the Garpel, and while we said the label had been carefully preserved, there was no trace of any bottle!

CHANGING

The sheltered housing scheme at The Stile site on Main Street is rapidly taking shape, and will be an attractive improvement to the appearance of that part of the village. At the west end of the Main Street, just below the old Regal Cinema, work has started on the demolition of two properties there—Kinettles, formerly the Police Constable's house, and Wallace's Bar, but better known to the older residents as Rennie's Bar.

The Humour of Muirkirk

We have been pleased to have a perusal of the manuscript of a book with the above title, and have found it both highly amusing and interesting. The book was written by Mr James G. Samson, whose poetic effusions have appeared from time to time in these columns under the pen of "Wellwood."

It is a collection of stories over a period of 67 years. Some from the author's own experience, many from "yarns" told to him, but all with a Muirkirk flavour.

To whet the appetite we reproduce the following excerpts:— Muirkirk was a place full of nicknames, but the queerest one, in my opinion, was the one given to Jean Campbell — Jean the Bug. She made a declaration almost as important as the declaration of the Common Market countries on the Treaty of Rome. Her words of wisdom—"Ma mither had nae weans, and I'm hivin' nane aither." But Jean's prophesy was wrong— she married Johnny Pottles and they had a son.

* * * * *

The story was often told of the Glenbuck man at the football international at Hampden Park. They were packed in like herring:—

"O! Tam! O! Tam! Ye'll get yer farin',
In hell they'll roast ye like a herrin."

The Glenbuck man felt he would like to urinate, and mentioned it to the man next to him. "There's nae place tae dae it," said the Glenbuckian. "Dae it in that man's pocket beside you," said his new found friend. "Oh! Ah widna' like tae dae that," said the visitor from Grasshill. "Whit wey no'." said the close-knit neighbour, "I did it in yours!"

* * * * *

That's what you call a dirty trick, but no dirtier than J. El's. He was at a party, and at the table he spotted a cream cookie he fancied, and so that no one would eat it, James spat on the bottom of it and put it back on the cake stand.

* * * * *

I have two characters in mind who baffled all description— primarily, Jimsy Brown, and secondly, Wullie McCormick. As I have put Brown first, perhaps I can recount some of his exploits.

In the Southside it was common when going out to suggest to the postman if they met him on their way to the village, "If you have anything for me, just put it under the door." Jimsy evidently didn't know that the space between the floor and the door measured at a maximum, half an inch. Meeting the Old Store van and breadman one day he told him as he would not be in just to put two loaves under the door!

* * * * *

Once, when the steam hammer broke down in the "Smiddy" at the Ironworks, John Angus, the General Manager, demanded to know how this came about. First he asked Jake Seymour, but Jake knew that Jimsy would give an answer like a labyrinth. So here was Jimsy's explanation of the break-down to the general manager : — "She gaed up, she gaed doon, I

maunna share she wadna' gae back up. She did shoo shoo, hard, hard, an' that's it, Johnny." Johnny always wore his bowler hat at a jaunty angle but he pulled it down over his ears and marched on as though the steam hammer had hit him!

* * * * *

One morning Jimsy came to work in the foundry with a new pair of trousers on. He burst forth in great praise over these trousers, and here was the epoch-making speech (I don't think anyone, bar me, remembers it word by word?):—"New pair of trousers on this morning—got them awa' doon at the bottom o' the kist (chest), faur, faur, my grandfaither's when he was a boy, cost thirteen shillings an' elevenpence ha'penny, ten year an' a long, long while an' his faurdin (farthing), a' his walking stick tae." No, it's not Gaelic or Esperanto—it's a language that only Jimsy and I understand.

* * * * *

It used to be common to hear locals say of Jimsy's remarks, such as, when he went to drown himself (which he never did), he met a boy near the Injection Dam. 'If ye don't tell ony buddy I'm awa' tae droon masel' I'll gie ye a penny when I come back.'

* * * * *

Then there was his most famous and best-known observation:—"Dae ye ken Bob Lowe? Weel, ma faither lost a juck; he's no' blamin' ony-buddy."

* * * * *

Shall we now turn to W. McC———? This man's imagination baffled everyone. I'm sure the most learned professors, the ablest of doctors, would never have diagnosed this man's make-up. He told fantastic tales, so vividly, so convincingly, that he himself must have had the hallucination that it was the absolute truth.

* * * * *

Let's take a sample at random. Once he told us at the Kames Row corner that one Saturday when playing football at Ladeside Park (he was by no means a football player), he struck the crossbar with such a terrific shot that the crossbar was still shaking at 9 a.m. on the Sunday morning!

* * * * *

A dog had been despatched via passenger train to Muirkirk Station—a Collie dog, bound ultimately for a local farm., On arrival, by guard's van, it broke loose and scampered down the line with the Porter (of Highland extraction) running after it, and howling at the pitch of his voice—"Catch that dog, it's a parcel!"

* * * * *

During the First World War the same Porter had not received any communication or correspondence from his son for a lengthy time. Perturbed about it, he wrote a letter to him—a natural kindly thing to do, nothing to smile about there—until he finished the letter by writing that he was to reply by turn of post, and say whether he was dead or living.

THE HUMOUR OF MUIRKIRK (Continued)

There are many anecdotes around his name and memory, but let me tell this final one.

Muirkirk Station was at one time what might be considered a railway junction. The Caledonian Railway ended here, and the Glasgow and South-Western started, with the result that passengers from Lanarkshire (via Lanark) had to change into the compartments of the G.&S.W.R. for Ayr, or for Glasgow, via Kilmarnock. It so happened that one day a cattle train was standing in the station, and our old Porter was marching up and down the platform calling, "All change." Turning his view he discovered that it was not a passenger train, so by way of apology he said—"Oh! Yer a cattle train. Weel, never min', jist keep yer seats!"

* * * * *

Keep your seats reminds me of one who didn't keep her seat. It happened at a dramatic performance and the play was "The Poacher's Daughter." In the first act the poacher is caught red-handed lifting a rabbit from the snare. In the second act he appears in the court. The judge asked the usual question—"Do you plead guilty or not guilty?" "Not guilty, my Lord." Auld N. had become so engrossed in the play—she banged up from her seat, and to the amazement of the players, the audience and all, she shouted out: "It's a damnation lie, I sat here and watched him!"

* * * * *

Jock G.'s father had a verse written about Garpel Water. I have heard many emigrants (on a vacation back in this country), say that this verse is quoted where-ever Muirkirkers foregather. You know the verse, and you can put in the gap to suit yourself.

"Doon by the Wellwood Pit, the River Garpel flows,
Thro' twa brigs an' intae a———field it goes."

* * * * *

Davie's fame as a poet was handed down to Jock G. One night a few of us were gathered in the corner of the billiard room in the Ironworks Institute, and in our discussion the topic veered to McGonigle's poems. I was asked to recite a verse which goes like this:—

"I gi'en my barrow
A coat o' pent,
Afore, ablow, ahin', ahent."

Everyone laughed, except John H., he was always an obstinate character. Say **black**, he said **white**. He praised the excerpt as being good poetry and of fine quality. Jock G. suggested it was trash, and said that he could touch it up and make it into a presentable contribution of muse. This John H. challenged him to do. Here is Jock G.'s amendment:—

"I gi'ed my barrow
A coat of pent,
I went tae shove it
But the aixle bent."

THE REGAL CINEMA

The demolition of the Regal Cinema, now in progress (June), will end another most important chapter in the life of Muirkirk, and to most of our older readers especially, will recall very many happy memories of youthful days.

The building was formerly one of our local churches, the UPC (United Presbyterian Church), which, if memory serves us right, merged with the Free Kirk at Glasgow Road. The U.P. Church was then transformed into a hall, named the Dundas Hall (after the Rev. John Dundas, possibly the last U.P. minister in Muirkirk).

The Dundas Hall in turn became a tremendously important centre of recreation and culture in our village life, and performed many of the functions which had formerly been vested in the old Temperance Hall. Although a smallish function suite compared with the Temperance Hall, the Dundas Hall filled the bill admirably for many years, with its entrance vestibule, the stair on the right leading up to the gallery, the hall proper and stage, and below a lesser hall and small committee room.

Many important and memorable functions come to mind as we recall this happy establishment. Socials, weddings, silver weddings, political meetings (very interesting in those far-off days), band, choir and orchestral concerts. We remember for instance, a visit of the very talented choir from the Irvine Valley, under a Mr Brown, and which, with some professional assistance gave a thoroughly commendable performance of Handel's Messiah to a large and captivated audience; our own Mr John Devine's choral and orchestral concerts, and not forgetting a number of well-produced children's operettas and kinderspiels to which he devoted his life ungrudgingly; visits of the famous S.C.W.S. and other famous brass bands of the period; the socials of the old Muirkirk Lapraik Burns Club, with the revered chairman, the late Mr Archibald Fairbairn, presiding in the old and still well-preserved Lapraik chair; the Ornithological Society shows; travelling and well-known variety and dramatic companies; the after-midnight dances when New Year fell on a Sunday or a Monday; a Salvation Army wedding, sales of work and carnivals, etc., etc., etc.; and down in the Lesser Hall mining students' classes and other lesser meetings and committee sessions (all of the greatest value and importance to Muirkirk at that time).

Later Mr James Muir from Lesmahagow took over the Hall for use as a cinema. The building was extended for this purpose, and became a modern and imposing centre of entertainment. Most unfortunately, our brand new cinema had only been in existence for a short period, when it was gutted by fire, but the redoubtable owner soon had it functioning again in its intended purpose, and it was a cinema to be proud of, with its handsome and life-like murials of several notable local scenes on its high walls. Many important meetings were held there on Sundays, but, of course, we were now in the cinema era in which Muirkirk, with its two cinemas, could and did offer a surfeit of talking picture entertainment on no fewer than seven nights per week, and local inhabitants and hundreds of visitors on Sunday nights took full advantage.

Then, as everyone knows, the cinemas took the slide with the advent of wireless and T.V., and the Regal was disposed of to Mr Findlay, the former "opposition leader" at the Picture House (Temperance Hall). Mr Findlay carried on gallantly until the New Regal was no longer an economic feasibility, and we all know the end of the chapter now

Still, memories are valuable things.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1972**BIRTHS**

- ANDERSON.—To Mr and Mrs Willie Anderson on 14th March; a daughter.
- LENNOX.—To Mr and Mrs Jim Lennox (Mima Breckney) on 11th May; a son.
- VALENTINE.—To Mr and Mrs Billy Valentine (Sheila Mackin) on 23rd May; a son.
- ELSE.—To Mr and Mrs Stephen Else (May Stark) on 4th July; a son.
- ROBSON.—To Mr and Mrs George Robson (Maureen Bain) on 1st July; a daughter.
- COYLE.—To Mr and Mrs Bill Coyle (Marie Boland) on 3rd July; a daughter
- MITCHELL.—To Mr and Mrs Jim Mitchell on 7th August; a daughter.
- McGARVA.—To Mr and Mrs Don McGarva (Margaret Brown) on 11th August; a son.
- CRAIG.—To Mr and Mrs Andrew Craig (Margaret Brown) on 2nd September; a son.
- LITTLE.—To Mr and Mrs Roger Little (Mary Guthrie) on 14th September; a daughter.
- FYFE.—To Mr and Mrs Hugh Fyfe on 25th September; a daughter.
- SMITH.—To Mr and Mrs Ronald Smith (Anne Auld) on 8th October; a daughter.
- TILSTONE.—To Dr. and Mrs W. J. Tilston (Angela Marshall) on 1st November; a daughter.
- GIRVAN.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Girvan on 25th December; a son.
- THOMSON.—To Allan and Elizabeth Thomson on 17th December; a son.

MARRIAGES

- DAVID BURRELL to SHEENA SHARPE on 10th June.
- IAN STEELE to PAULINE LANDERS on 9th June.
- JAMES LAIDLAW to MARY BRADFORD on 11th August.
- EDMUND MAURER to KATHLEEN BOLAND on 19th August.
- WILLIAM MITCHELL to DORIS WHITEFIELD on 9th Sept
- WILLIAM VALLANCE to MARGARET MacLELLAN on 6th October.
- RICHARD MENZIES to MARGARET MUIR on 2nd December.

EXTENSION OPENED

In April, prior to the official opening of Muirkirk Bowling Green for the new season, another pleasing ceremony took place. Mrs Tom Johnstone was asked to cut the ribbon and declare the new extension to the Clubhouse officially open.

FOOTBALL (Season 1971—72)

Yet again, not much for the supporters to shout about at Ladeside Park, and despite beating Talbot 3—1 they failed to qualify for the later stages of the League Cup. The team was:—Smith; Hunter, Ward; McVey, Holmes, Douglas; Adamson, Gardiner, McDade, Cairns, Rutherford.

For their first ever Sunday competitive game, Muirkirk travelled to Cumnock and managed to win 2—4.

The Juniors had an attractive away game against Johnstoneburgh in the first round of the West of Scotland Cup, but failed rather miserably, going down by 5—1.

It was much the same story in the 1st round of the Scottish Cup, when they were away to Ballieston, and lost 4-1.

Muirkirk managed to get to the quarter-final of the Ayrshire Cup, but their season virtually ended when Darvel beat them 3—0.

MAIN STREET WEST (From Foot of Temperance Hall Brae)

DEATHS

- GIRDWOOD.—At Ballochmyle on 5th January, William Girdwood, 94 Henderson Drive; aged 78 years.
- MURRAY.—At Irvine on 10th January, Agnes Murray, 30 Wellwood Avenue; aged 67 years.
- PALMER.—At Ballochmyle on 7th January, Eleanor McVea, 25 Meanlour Drive; aged 78 years.
- SAMSON.—In Vancouver on 6th January, Hugh Samson.
- WILSON.—At Ballochmyle on 9th January, Andrew Wilson, 25 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 77 years.
- ROSS.—At Glasgow on 5th January, Mary Gold; aged 67.
- SAMSON.—At Hamilton on 22nd January, James Samson (formerly of Bridge Street); aged 76 years.
- MORRAN.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd February, Margaret Boland; aged 75 years.
- SEYMOUR.—At Glasgow on 3rd February, James Seymour; aged 87 years.
- MUIR.—At 13 Middlefield Drive on 17th February, Elizabeth Duncan; aged 63 years.
- MURDOCH.—At 6 Harwood Avenue on 16th February, David Murdoch; aged 84 years.
- WILSON.—At Ballochmyle on 19th February, Sarah Murdoch, 25 Hawkshaw Terrace.
- PRESTON.—At Ballochmyle on 23rd February, Janet Mathieson, 2 Lovedale Crescent; aged 92 years.
- ADAM.—At Glasgow on 2nd March, Janet Irvine (late Wellwood Cottage); aged 54 years.
- DODDS.—At Glasgow on 29th February, George Dodds; aged 46 years.
- BEGG.—At 89 Henderson Drive on 29th March, Thomas Begg; aged 78 years.
- STEELE.—At 19 Wardlaw Avenue on 22nd March, Catherine McCartney, of 16 Middlefield Drive; aged 85 years.
- BARRIE.—At Ballochmyle on 28th March, Agnes McLatchie, 39 Henderson Drive; aged 58 years.
- WILSON.—At Winconsin, U.S.A., on 16th March, Elizabeth Cowan, late of Garronhill; aged 61 years.
- HAZLE.—At Ballochmyle on 14th April, Peter Hazle, 30 Glasgow Road; aged 60 years.
- JOHNSTONE.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd April, Agnes Samson, 10 Pagan Walk; aged 67 years.
- SMITH.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd April, Annie Watson, 10 Lovedale Crescent.
- TAIT.—At Ballochmyle on 23rd April, Peter Tait, 31 Wellwood Street; aged 68 years.
- WALKER.—At Newmilns on 24th April, Annie Walker, 10 Harwood Avenue; aged 79 years.
- KELLY.—On 28th April, James Kelly, 11 Lapraik Avenue; aged 50 years.
- SHIELDS.—At Edinburgh on 2nd May, Marion Millar.
- SMITH.—At Isle of Wight on 18th April, Dorothy Hardie.
- GRAY.—At Ballochmyle on 13th May, Robert Gray, 22 Carruthers Park; aged 71 years.
- WEIR.—At Edinburgh on 16th May, Walter Weir (of Muirkirk).
- GIRDWOOD.—At West Kilbride on 20th May, James Girdwood.
- HUNTER.—In South Africa on 23rd May, Gwen Hunter.
- STEVEN.—In Canada on 21st May, George Steven.
- TROTTER.—At Ballochmyle on 27th May, Miriam Wilson, Donn-Avh, Wellwood Street.
- BLYTH.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd June, David Blyth, 60 Main Street; aged 68 years.
- BROWN.—At 12 Wellwood Street on 5th June, Wiliam Brown (Master Builder); aged 87 years.
- FULTON.—At 48 Main Street on 1st June, William Fulton, aged 76 years.
- McMANUS.—At Irvine on 4th June, Alexander McManus, 5 Burns Avenue.
- PRINGLE.—At Ballochmyle on 18th June, George Pringle, 1 Lovedale Crescent.
- FLOYD.—At Ballochmyle on 3rd July, Janet Floyd, Woodside Cottage; aged 83 years.
- FORD.—At Coventry on 3rd July, Olive Cullen; aged 34 years.
- WILSON.—At Coventry on 30th June, Robert Wilson; aged 35 years.
- McFEGAN.—In Canada on 3rd July, William McFegan (one time Mine Manager, Muirkirk); aged 92 years.
- FLEMING.—At Douglas on 9th August, Agnes Watson; aged 71 years.
- PARK.—At 17 Wardlaw Avenue on 15th September, Crawford Beck; aged 76 years.
- CRANSTON.—At Ayr on 20th September, William Cranston; aged 81 years.
- McCARTNEY.—At Irvine on 8th October, Elizabeth McCartney, 7 Smallburn Drive; aged 8 years.
- WHYTE.—At Ayr on 1st October, Catherine Whyte; aged 78 years.
- HORNBY.—At London on 20th October, Catherine Dougall.
- CUMMING.—At Glasgow on 9th November, John Cumming, late of Muirkirk.
- WALLACE.—At 1 Henderson Drive on 17th November, Jean Dempster; aged 79 years.
- PARK.—At 39 Garronhill on 26th November, George Park, late of Glenbuck; aged 71 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At 48 Hareshaw Crescent on 3rd December, Thomas Dempster; aged 81 years.
- MACKIN.—At Ballochmyle on 30th November, Agnes Aird, 141 Henderson Drive; aged 67 years.
- SAMSON.—At Muirkirk on 5th December, George Samson, 30 Glasgow Road; aged 60 years.
- McSKIMMING.—At Ballochmyle on 13th December, Margaret Jamieson, 5 Smallburn Drive; aged 52 years.
- McGARVA.—At 64 Hareshaw Crescent on 25th December, Jane McMillan; aged 81 years.

CHAPTER SIXTY-SIX

(1973)

Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire

A friend and reader has given us a perusal of an old book entitled "Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire." The book, published in 1895, and written by John Smith, devotes a full chapter to Muirkirk and District. We thought it worthwhile to reprint the chapter as follows—

The Standing Stone of Lightshaw is seven feet high, and measures three feet by two feet six inches, being smaller at the top. Lightshaw is probably just Laugh Shaw, "the grave in the wood," and the Standing Stone is perhaps the headstone.

At Battle Craigs, near Chapelhouse, on Greenock Water, there is a low mound, nine paces by six. It has evidently been opened and disfigured.

There are two cairns on Greenock Dyke, which the farmer told me he himself had removed.

Meanlour Cairn was three miles north-west of Muirkirk, its site being shown on the map of James Knox.

On Upper Whitehaugh Moor there is a ring camp, called Sighthill, similar to the ones near Barrhill and Beith. The rampart is composed of small stones, and is ninety paces in circumference, but has been much disfigured by sheep-stalls, which have been built out of it. From it there is a good outlook to the south.

On top of Cairntable (called Carn Table in the district), the highest hill in Ayrshire, 1944 feet above sea level, there are two cairns built of the sandstone shivers of the hill. The east one is twenty paces in diameter and thirteen feet high; the west one ten paces in diameter and eight feet high. From this height an extensive view is obtained of both Ayrshire, Lanarkshire, and Dumfriesshire. A large part of the hill is composed of sandstone thickly covered with heather. On Little Cairntable, beside it, the cloudberry grows in abundance.

On top of Wardlaw, another sandstone hill, there is a cairn eleven paces in diameter.

About four miles south-west of Muirkirk, on the hill slope above the Boghead Burn, there is a natural boulder of reddish sandstone, slightly conglomerate, which goes by the name of the Gray Mare Stone (perhaps a corruption of Gray Hare Stone, or Gray Memorial Stone). It measures ten feet by seven, slopes towards the west, and the east base of it being washed away, the sheep can shelter under it. It is scribbled all over with names and initials, is the only boulder on the hillside, and is a frequent scene of "pilgrimages," there being a magnificent prospect from it to the south and west.

Near the mouth of the Greenock Water, on the point and summit of the west salient, there is an ancient fort, still called by the name of Castle Hill. It measures thirty-four paces by nine; it is narrow towards the ditch, which is still eight feet deep.

At Cleugh Head, where the Ponesk Water sweeps round from flowing in a south - west direction, to take a south-east

course, there are two old river channels, now dry, cut out of the solid rock, and now at a considerable height above the present river. One of them is short and wide, but the other is 321 paces in length, and looks like an artificial ditch, being at places over twenty feet in depth. The point of land cut off by it is 157 paces wide, and, taking advantage of the natural stream course, and the strength of the position, which appears to have been increased by a little artificial sharpening, this position has probably been used as a fort. What gives further strength to this opinion is the fact that at equal distances from both ends of the "ditch" there is a roadway leading to the "fort," and raised five feet above the bottom of the ditch in a similar manner to roadways in connection with other ancient Ayrshire forts.

East from it, on Netherhill, there is a cairn ten paces in diameter.

Thirty-nine paces east from John Brown's grave, on Priesthill, there is an irregular mound, seventeen paces in diameter, and four feet six inches high.

A very fine bronze spear-head, measuring 10½ inches long by two inches at its widest part, was got at a depth of six feet in Whitehaugh Moss. It is tanged and fluted, with a central mid-rib, there being a hole in the end of the tang. It belongs to a rather rare type, and is figured in the Ayr and Wigton Archaeological Collections.

On West Glenbuck, there was turned up by the plough in 1882, a bronze palstave, or winged celt. It measures six inches long 2¼ inches broad at the edge, and has been figured in the Ayr and Wigton Collections.

On Airdsgreen there is a short pillar, said to have been erected to commemorate the meeting of the Douglasses with the Annandale free-booters when the latter were being pursued by the Laird of Auchens.

On Kames there is a short pillar with the number 12 incised on the top of it. It has probably been one of a series of march stones, but it is not now near any marches.

I was informed that from a drain on the lands of Maxhead a metal jug had been at one time dug up. It was sold by the drainers, but the Queen ultimately claimed it, so that it must have been composed of either gold or silver.

I am indebted to Mr Adam Whyte, Muirkirk, for the following information—

An iron battle-axe was found on the north side of the Ayr Water, near Kames Pit.

In the moss near the same place a deer's antler was got.

A stone celt was discovered near the March House.

Part of a flint instrument or weapon was got near Blackside.

A silver-mounted riding whip was got at the ford near Wellwood, and a bronze spear or axe near Greenock Dyke.

The Long Stone of Convention was set up on the summit of rising ground at Bankend in 1686, a date which it still bears. It was evidently not a favourite, and has been cast down and broken into three parts. Round about it there are said to have been six graves, but whether they were older or of more recent date than the Stone of Convention, tradition sayeth not.

On a spot called Whitefield, on the lands of Blackside, there

are two curious earthworks, which some of the people in the neighbourhood consider to have been "Roman Camps." The smaller ones is seventeen paces by five, at one end there being a cell three paces wide. The larger area has openings on each side, and on one of the sides the earth wall projects for a short distance. The other one is twenty-nine paces by sixteen, there being two openings on one side—one at one of the ends and one at the other side—where there is also a projecting spur. There have been two apartments, with an inner passage running partly along the side where the projecting spur is. These structures have certainly not been camps.

Cameron's Monument stands on Aird's Moss, Brown's Monument at Priesthill, Adam's Stone at Wellwood, and Smith's in the Churchyard—all erected to Covenanters.

"To the Lords o' Convention 'twas Clavers who spoke,
Ere the King's crown gae doon there are croons tae be broke;
And each cavalier who loves honour and me,
Let him follow the bonnets o' bonny Dundee."

At Glenbuck there are the remains of the old iron blast-furnace, and a tar work was at one time erected by Lord Dundonald, the remains of it being still visible on the east side of the Sanquhar Road.

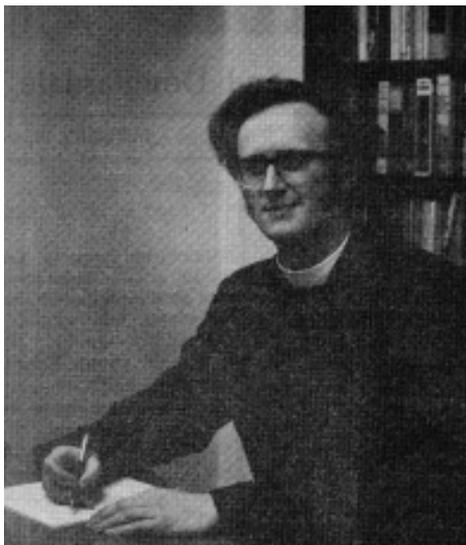
About two miles south-west of the town there are old lead mines.

There are no old castles in the district.

Muirkirk probably means Grouse Moor.

DOG SHOW

Cumnock & District Canine Club held a very successful 65-Class Open Show in Main Street School in June, and it proved to be an outstanding success. Over 300 dogs were on show.



The Rev. JAMES L. GUTHRIE

who was inducted as Muirkirk Parish Church's new Minister at a ceremony in the Church on 10th January. Mr Guthrie, a Glasgow man, graduated in 1966, and received his B.D. Degree in 1969. This will be Mr Guthrie's first charge. He is not married.

THE LATE MR JOHN SAMSON

The village, and in particular, the "Advertiser" Office, was saddened last week with the announcement of the sudden death of Mr John Samson at his home at 125 Townhead Street, Cumnock, on 11th January.

Mr Samson was a Muirkirk man, born and bred, residing most of his life at Jack's Buildings, but going to live in Cumnock a number of years ago following his marriage. He retired only last January as Editor and proprietor of the "Advertiser," after 51½ years' association with the firm. Mr Samson was educated at Muirkirk Schools and Cumnock Academy and joined the firm in 1920 at the age of thirteen years, as apprentice to the late Mr W. Shaw Smith, the founder of the business, and whom Mr Samson was to succeed in later years.

Yes, Johnny Samson, the printer, is gone, and with his passing ends another era in the life of the village, as almost all of his contemporaries have gone before him. As Editor and proprietor of the "Advertiser" he possessed a very alert brain, and one often wondered if he were not destined for a higher station in life than the one he occupied.

In his early days Johnny took up many interests, but perhaps the one that gave him most satisfaction (apart from the "Wee Paper") was in the world of music. He had an excellent ear for music, and was solo cornet player in Muirkirk Parish Silver Band, and was a member of the two local orchestras of that time. His talent with the cornet did not go unnoticed, and he "guested" with other district bands and contested with country dance bands. In later years he formed his own dance orchestra, and many readers will recall with nostalgia those charity dances, etc., held during the dark days of the Second World War, when Samson's Dance Band provided the music.

Another main interest in his life was in the field of ornithology, being treasurer of both the Southside Flying Club and Muirkirk Ornithological Society for many years. He made quite a name for himself in the showing and breeding of fancy and racing pigeons, and was well known in ornithological circles.

Johnny was a Muirkirk man to the core, always showing a keen interest in local affairs, and always greatly concerned about the future of the village. He was, of course, a familiar and highly-respected figure during his days in business, possessing a pawky sense of humour—never missing a chance to "get in" a quirk or two.

Johnny Samson will be missed by many who were proud to call him friend, and his place in the community will be hard to fill. His greatest wish in life was that there would always be a "wee paper" in Muirkirk, and in this respect we at the "Advertiser" Office shall do our utmost to see that this wish is fulfilled, at least in our life-time.

SWIMMING POOL

An advert in the August 2 issue showed that an application by Cumnock District Council had been made to Ayr County Council for planning permission in respect of the erection of an indoor Swimming Pool at Miller Road.

OUTDOOR CENTRE

Ayr County Council have announced proposals to change the use of the Community Centre (Ironworks Institute) at Southside as an outdoor centre.

"THIS IS YOUR LIFE"

Most local folks were glued to their television sets last Wednesday evening (10th January) when the subject of this popular I.T.V. programme was none other than Glenbuck's Willie Shankly, at present Manager of Liverpool F.C. Willie came over very well on the screen, and as well as the horde of soccer and show business personalities taking part, were members of the Shankly family. From pit boy to world soccer personality is no mean feat!

OBITUARY

With the sudden passing of Mr Alex. Dempster at his home at 22 Harwood Avenue on 28th January, Muirkirk lost another weel-kent face and personality.

Sanny, as he was more familiarly known, was a pigeon fancier in his early days, but his main interest in life was in the world of football.

In his younger days Sanny played centre-forward with the local juvenile team, the old Battlefield, and was a member of the shield-winning combination at that time. He later played junior football with Muirkirk Athletic.

Several years ago Sanny took part in a television programme about Muirkirk Junior F.C., of which he was a life-long supporter, and at the funeral at Muirkirk Cemetery, Mr Arthur Montford, well-known sports personality of Scottish TV, was there to pay his last respects.

BACK TO WINTER

Winter returned with a vengeance on Monday (12th February) with heavy falls of snow and strong winds creating blizzard conditions, and making life miserable both for pedestrians and motorists alike. The Smallburn Housing Scheme was without electricity in the early afternoon of Monday, and then again for a period in the evening.

There was more to come on Tuesday night when heavy falls of snow, whipped by strong winds, reached blizzard proportions. Several inches fell, and there were drifts some three or four feet deep. Conditions were not made any easier by the hard frost which followed. The snowplough was out late that night in an effort to keep the roads clear.

However, the situation was every bit as bad on Wednesday at daylight. There was no sign of the snowplough and conditions on the roads were chaotic to say the least. Commuters had great difficulty in getting away from the village, and the bus services were badly disrupted. Postal services, too, were delayed. The roads were a nightmare for drivers, skidding all over the place. At one time the Muirkirk-Cumnock road was blocked at the Skew Bridge. The Strathaven road was passable, but only just, and it was single-line traffic for most of the way. Several vehicles had to be abandoned on this road. The road to Douglas was tricky, but open, although the main road south was blocked in several places.

At time of writing (Wed. a.m.) conditions had not improved much, indeed the skies threatened still more snow. And still no sign of the snowplough!

No doubt about it, the worst winter conditions experienced in the village for a good number of years. The only consolation is that other districts have been faring far much worse.

SMALLBURN HOUSING SCHEME

In March the Planning Committee of Ayr County Council published details of a £103,000 Development for Smallburn Housing Scheme, including landscaping, etc.

THE LIGHTSHAW STONE

Readers have been asking about the origin of the Lightshaw Stone, and we have received the following letter which certainly throws some light on the mystery:—

Dear Sir,—I have just been given a book of poems written by James M. Hodge in 1889, one of which refers to the Lightshaw Stone. He says it is supposed to be an altar to Woden, of Scandinavian Mythology (see Ayton's Survey of Ayrshire). One verse reads—

Thy uncouth, lonely form, recalls to mind

Historical events of long ago.

When Scandinavian hordes, with fury blind,

O'er-ran these plains and made them scenes of woe.

The book is called "Muirland Rhymes," and the foreward is written by the Rev. John Dundas, and a perusal of the book raises the question—"Where was the Auld Stair Raw?"

The Poet tells us The Water Ayr Brig was built in 1789.

There are many more items of interest in the book, one of which is that Tibbie Pagan's poems "for years ha'e lain below oor Kirk's foundations stane."—Yours TIBBIE'S BRIG

* * * * *

A Glenbuck gentleman, who wishes to remain anonymous, tells us that the word "Lightshaw" originated from a gaelic word which sounded like "Leeshaw," and which meant "Stone on the Wood." As the country was at one time covered in woodlands, this well may be the case.

SHELTERED HOUSING

Several of the houses in the new Sheltered Housing Scheme at Main Street near The Stile have been allocated. Indeed, the new tenants have already settled in (May). It is a most attractive scheme, very pleasing to the eye, and one which could be copied with acceptance elsewhere in the village (wishful thinking?).

CAIRNTABLE IN SIGHT

As promised by the County Council some time ago, the embankment on the south side of Main Street opposite the Working Men's Club (the former Masons Arms Hotel and Albert Place, etc.) is now being cleared and levelled.

The result—a fine panoramic view of Cairntable and the surrounding district. It is to be hoped that the ground in question will be left in a tidy state.

CHURCHES FOOTBALL

In the semi-final of the Scottish Churches Cup, Blairbeth Parish, from Glasgow, were the visitors at Ladeside Park in May. On the day, the visitors were the better side, with Muirkirk not playing to their full potential, finally losing the game by 3—1. Muirkirk team:—McGarva; Johnstone, Bradford; Hill, Crawford, Ward; G. Taylor, Walker, Richmond, Dempster, Beck. Substitutes—I. Taylor, McCutcheon.

FIRE AT HENDERSON DRIVE FLATS

A very serious outbreak of fire occurred at the flats at Henderson Drive on Saturday afternoon (28th April), and while we are pleased to report that there was no loss of life or serious injury sustained, nevertheless a great deal of damage was caused to the houses concerned.

The fire apparently started at the home of Mr Kenneth Wyllie at 63 Henderson Drive (a ground floor flat). It was thought that a spark from the living room fire had set alight an easy chair, and from here the blaze quickly spread. The water system shaftway which runs up the fireplace to the houses above proved to be a means of allowing the flames to escape and set alight the living room of the house occupied above by Mr J. Young. The top flat, occupied by Mr J. Renwick, was not affected by fire, but was soon filled by thick smoke.

By this time the alarm had been raised, and the Muirkirk Fire Brigade were quickly on the scene, and in time brought the blaze under control. The Brigade from Cumnock arrived to assist the local firemen, and also present was a team from Kilmarnock with breathing apparatus.

The Police supervised the evacuation of the neighbouring houses, but Mr Jim Hazle, 71 Henderson Drive, had to make his escape via a ladder, thick smoke preventing him from getting down the stairway. By this time that part of Henderson Drive affected by the blaze had been closed to traffic.

It was only when the fire was finally extinguished that the real extent of the damage was realised. The bottom house was completely gutted and Mr and Mrs Wyllie and family left homeless. The house above, that of Mr and Mrs Young and family, had severe fire damage in the living room as well as smoke damage elsewhere. The top flat house (Mr and Mrs Renwick and family) had severe smoke damage.

Bad enough, but one shudders to think of the consequences had the blaze started during the night or early morning.

MUIRKIRK GOLF CLUB

Work at the new golf course at Springhill will start on Sunday, and Muirkirk Golf Club are looking for volunteers to help with the laying out of the course. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Mr Sandy Baxter, Strathaven, very kindly designed the course, and when completed, should prove very attractive, and will add to the amenities of the village.

BANK CHANGES

It has been announced that Mr W. B. C. Beggs, Manager of the local Branch of the Clydesdale Bank, will be retiring on 30th June, after having completed 44 years in the Bank's service. He will be replaced by Mr John Donaldson, Accountant at Darvel, and takes up his new duties on 1st July.

NEW EXTENSION

In October work was commenced on the new extension to Muirtex factory at Main Street.

CONSTABULARY

Police Constable David Conway, who has been stationed at Muirkirk for the past ten years, has been transferred to Saltcoats.

NEW PITHEAD BATHS

That very enterprising local firm, the Viaduct Coal Co., Ltd., Glenbuck, have just completed the building of new pithead baths at their mine in the Ponesk valley, near Glenbuck. The hot water system is coal-fired (naturally) and brought back into use is the boiler from the recently demolished Regal Cinema.

The building of the baths shows clearly that the Viaduct Coal Co have every hope for the future of coal mining in this particular area. The development plan promises work for another ten years at least.

NEW GOLF COURSE

The heavy squad were out on the site of the new golf course at Springhill in August, and as a result the initial shaping of the greens and tees took place. It is hoped that work on the course will now progress more quickly.

The Club hope to purchase a tractor shortly, and this should help considerably.

On behalf of the Club, Mr Holland asked for Embassy Cigarette coupons to help obtain a grass-cutting machine. As a result 14,000 coupons were handed in, and these have now been sent away in exchange for a motor mower. A really fine effort, and thanks are due to all concerned.

Mrs Farley has had to relinquish the post of Secretary, and meantime Mr R. D. Holland has kindly stepped in to fill the breach.

KAMES BING

In early August work commenced on the massive task of levelling the dirt bing at the former Kames Colliery.

THE CHANGING SCENE

Another landmark in the village disappeared from the scene in early August with the demolition of the railway bridge at the former Muirkirk Railway Station over the road to the South Side (more often than not referred to as "the Tunnel" by locals).

The site is now deserted, but it was once a hive of industry, with passenger trains leaving for Glasgow and Ayr (Glasgow & South-Western Railway) and Edinburgh (Caledonian Railway) at regular intervals. There were also of course the usual mineral trains at that time serving Kames Colliery and "The Works."

We can remember the stairs with the white tiled walls which led from the roadway under the bridges to the Station platform above (and this was later bricked up).

Other landmarks soon to disappear from the scene will be the footbridge at the old Palmer's Crossing, which was built in 1939 (according to our information), and was situated at the top of the Kames Row; and the "21" stone railway bridge which spans the Garpel Water above the former Kames Colliery, and which is a favourite "dooking" place for locals during the warmer weather.

SPORTS PAVILION

The new sports pavilion at the Victory Park was opened in November, and is a welcome amenity to the village.

EFFIE'S SPOOT

From time to time in these columns we have had the rather sad task of reporting on the disappearance of local landmarks, so it is with some pleasure that we record the re-emergence (after over 40 years, we believe) of an old water spout in the village, namely Effie's Spoot. This spring is situated near the Kirk Burn across from Madeleine Place at the foot of Bridge Street on the Glenbuck Road.

Some weeks ago (August) repair work was being executed at the bridge which spans the Kirk Burn, and when a local postman, Mr Tom Wharrie, told the workmen about the well which had been filled in, they promptly obliged and re-opened Effie's Spoot with a new pipe, which flows with crystal clear water—the best in the country, we are told.

In his book, "Cairntable Rhymes," Thomas Floyd wrote:—"Commencing at the east end of the village we had Effie's Spoot. It was fixed in a low stone wall on the north side of the Douglas Road, close to the Kirk Burn. For many years it gave a regular and copious supply of good water, but to-day, owing to drainage operations it has practically stopped functioning. Tradition makes it the oldest spoot in the village, and may have supplied Garron before Muirkirk was in existence. It was said to be the second best water in Scotland, but how and when it gained that distinction tradition has failed to enlighten us. It was supposed to derive its name from a certain Effie Johnstone, who lived in a thack house which stood where Mr McMichael's property now stands."

Note.—Further repair work was done to this bridge, and as a result the spoot was enclosed with a metal cage, but even to this day the water can be seen running steadily from Effie's Spoot, although one cannot get near enough for a drink—which is a pity.

THE ENERGY CRISIS

The oil crisis plus the industrial action by the power workers, railwaymen, and miners continues, and at time of writing it looks like being a rather bleak Festive Season. We can only hope that the Christmas message of goodwill will reach the ears of all parties concerned, and that there will be an early end to our present difficulties.

Meantime, restrictions on the use of electricity continues, and most of industry and commerce go on to a three-day working week after the New Year. In Muirkirk the permitted days for using power will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On top of this there will still be the threat of power cuts.

It is certainly the most serious situation we have faced since the dark days of the Second World War, but as the saying goes—"We've never died a winter yet!"

FOOTBALL (Season 1972—73)

Like the local football scene, there was little doing in the way of reporting football in the "Advertiser" this year, but perhaps that was just as well, as Muirkirk Juniors had another miserable season. In the Scottish they lost 3—2 away to Sauchie. Team:—Kelly; Holmes, W. Kelly; Shirkie, Miller, Wallace; Ducey, Ferries, Reid, Fleming, McDonald.

And that was about it—wins for the Juniors being few and far between.

OPENING OF NEW ST. THOMAS' R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

On 29th November, a Mass of dedication was said at the opening of the new R.C. Primary School at Pagan Walk. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop McGhee, Father Coyle, and Father Matthews. The Bishop took the opportunity of thanking the Education Committee for their generous gesture in building a replacement school in Muirkirk.

The building, which is of similar construction as Muirkirk Primary School, consists of two class-rooms, a practical bay, library, and hall. There is also a head teacher's room and staff room, as well as a servery to the main hall, which is used both as a gymnasium and a dining hall. There is ample toilet and cloakroom facilities. and the central heating system is coal-fired.

THE GROUSE LOUNGE

On Friday, 7th December, Mr and Mrs George Devine of the Crown Bar, opened their new Grouse Lounge, which is adjacent but separate from the public bar. The Lounge was converted from an old building on the east side of the original premises, and has its own entrance from the Main Street. This is a decided asset to the village amenities.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1973**BIRTHS**

TAYLOR.—To Mr and Mrs Roger Taylor (Sandra Kirkland) on 1st January; a son.

BRADFORD.—To Mr and Mrs Bill Bradford (Ellen Johnstone) on 19th January; a daughter.

ROSS.—To Mr & Mrs Wm. Ross on 17th Jan.; a daughter.

YOUNG.—To Mr and Mrs Brian Young on 20th January; a daughter.

RUSSELL.—To Mr and Mrs Tom Russell (Helen McMurdo) on 11th February; a daughter.

BAILEY.—To Mr and Mrs Hugh Bailey (Janette Millar) on 5th March; a daughter.

BONE.—To Mr and Mrs William Bone (Irene Scott) on 19th March; a daughter.

DEWAR.—To Mr and Mrs John Dewar (Marjorie Marshall) on 15th March; a son.

GRAHAM.—To Mr and Mrs Jim Graham (Anne Aitken) on 20th March; a son.

WARDEN.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Warden on 26th March; a son.

McCALL.—In Canada to Mr and Mrs Alex. McCall (Margaret Bone) on 17th April; a daughter.

CUNNING.—To Mr and Mrs Drew Cunning (Audrey Barrie) on 24th May; a son.

DEMPSTER.—To Mr and Mrs Tom Dempster on 11th June; a daughter.

McCALL.—To Mr and Mrs Bobby McCall on 17th June; a daughter

BIRTHS (Continued)

- DAVIDSON.—To Mr and Mrs George Davidson (Annie Hanlon) on 17th July; a son.
- MITCHELL.—To Mr and Mrs Billy Mitchell (Doris Whitefield) on 22nd July; a daughter
- BRADFORD.—To Mr and Mrs Tom Bradford (Nancy Kennedy) on 11th August; a daughter.
- HAMILTON.—To Mr and Mrs Ronald Hamilton (Janette Girdwood) on 9th August; a daughter.
- BALLANTYNE.—To Mr and Mrs George Ballantyne (Mary Jack) on 24th August; a son
- STEWART.—To Mr and Mrs Malcolm Stewart (Elizabeth Bradford) on 31st August; a son.
- CALLAN.—To Mr and Mrs Jimmy Callan (Kathleen Smetherhem); twins (Jenny Lee and Gavin).
- CAVEN.—To Mr and Mrs Francis Caven (Margaret Mitchell) on 27th November; a daughter.

MARRIAGES

- HARRY MURRAY to EILEEN BELL on 14th March.
- JOHN BRADFORD to NESSIE SAUNDERSON on 30th March
- WILLIAM SAMSON to JANICE McCULLOCH on 21st April.
- HUGH MOORHEAD to ANDREA TAYLOR on 9th June.
- JAMES CAMPBELL to ELEANOR PALMER on 16th June.
- JOYCE RAMSAY to STEWART McLEAN on 16th June.
- ROBERT DIXON to MARIAN PALMER on 10th July.
- IAN McNAIR to SADIE RUSH on 7th July.
- JAMES BURNSIDE to MARY ARTHUR on 8th August.
- JOHN CARSON to SHONA McMILLAN on 11th August.
- MARGARET MARSHALL to CHARLES RIGG on 23rd August.
- CHA LOH to HELEN AITKEN on 25th August.
- ERIC McCUTCHEON to JANE MORRISON on 1st September.
- ROBIN PALMER to SUSAN HAZLE on 8th September.
- THOMAS MILLAR to MARGARET BAIRD on 27th October.

DEATHS

- DA PRATO.—At Stranraer on 6th January, Neil Da Prato; aged 68 years.
- MURPHY.—At 19b Hawkshaw Terrace on 15th January, James Murphy; aged 73 years.
- NAPIER.—At Strathaven on 15th January, Mona Pearson.

DEATHS (Continued)

- SAMSON.—At Cumnock on 11th January, John Samson (Printer), late of Jack's Buildings; aged 65 years.
- BARRIE.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd January, Robert Barrie; aged 82 years.
- McLEAN.—At Dundonald on 19th January, Grace McKean; aged 73 years.
- DEMPSTER.—At 22 Harwood Avenue on 28th January, Alexander Dempster; aged 80 years.
- KEDDIE.—At Ballochmyle on 29th January, William Keddie, 44 Pagan Walk; aged 65 years.
- MURDOCH.—At 18 Harwood Avenue on 13th February, Janet Samson; aged 82 years.
- McCOUBRIE.—At Stirling on 25th February, Christina Campbell, formerly of Glenbuck.
- RUSSELL.—At Ballochmyle on 25th February, Adam Russell, 6 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 62 years.
- SLOAN.—At Ballochmyle on 27th February, Jessie Dempster.
- SAMSON.—At 31 Meanlour Drive on 18th March, Hugh Samson; aged 79 years.
- McCRONE.—At Ballochmyle on 25th March, David McCrone; aged 58 years.
- McLACHLAN.—At Ballochmyle on 20th March, Alexander McLachlan (Fleming); aged 69 years.
- McKENZIE.—At Ballochmyle on 1st April, Norman McKenzie, 39 Pagan Walk; aged 65 years.
- ROY.—At 16 Pagan Walk on 25th March, William Roy; aged 65 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At Kilwinning on 8th April, Joseph Davidson; aged 57 years.
- GAW.—At Ballochmyle on 7th April, Gladys White, 33 Pagan Walk; aged 52 years.
- McGARRY.—On 2nd April, James McGarry, late of Muirkirk; aged 59 years.
- RAMAGE.—At Park Cottage, 42 Glasgow Road on 8th April, Margaret Spence; aged 92 years.
- SAMSON.—At 57 Pagan Walk on 7th April, Mary Alexander; aged 69 years.
- SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 7th April, Archibald Samson, 6a Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 74 years.
- IRVINE.—At 19 Hareshaw Crescent on 21st April, Rose Logie; aged 79 years.
- McKENZIE.—At 39 Pagan Walk on 18th April, Mary Bell; aged 63 years.
- WATT.—At Douglas on 17th April, Margaret Watt.

DEATHS (Continued)

- McDOUGALL.—At Glasgow on 23rd April, Mary McDougall, formerly of Wellwood Avenue; aged 90 years.
- DAVIDSON.—At Canberra on 3rd May, Tom Davidson, late of Glenbuck; aged 77 years.
- FULTON.—At Glasgow on 4th May, Barbara Armstrong; aged 74 years.
- MILLER.—At 7 Miller Road on 7th May, Andrew Miller; aged 52 years.
- HASTINGS.—At Ayr on 23rd May, Francis Hastings; aged 75 years.
- NICOL.—At Ballochmyle on 23rd May, George Nicol, 5 Council Houses, Glenbuck; aged 76 years.
- CAMPBELL.—At 85 Henderson Drive on 8th June, John Campbell; aged 76 years.
- McINTOSH.—At 76 Pagan Walk on 13th June, John McIntosh; aged 68 years.
- BELL.—At Ballochmyle on 23rd June, Hugh Bell, 17 Hawkshaw Terrace; aged 59 years.
- CAMPBELL.—At 13 Miller Road on 23rd June, Henry Campbell; aged 38 years.
- HIBBERD.—At Ballochmyle on 16th June, Janet Samson; aged 72 years.
- SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 2nd July, Isabella Ferguson, 4 Harwood Avenue; aged 71 years.
- TURNER.—At 23 Meanlour Drive on 2nd July, Jean McLaren; aged 57 years.
- WALLACE.—At 17 Garpel Avenue on 3rd July, George Wallace; aged 57 years.
- SHAW.—At Ballochmyle on 9th July, Robert Shaw, 21 Burns Avenue; aged 72 years.
- BLACK.—At Ballochmyle on 9th July, Adam Black, 58 Main Street; aged 55 years.
- BRADFORD.—At Stranraer on 25th July, Thomas Bradford, 15 Harwood Avenue; aged 59 years.
- MARSHALL.—At Hillside Cottage, Glenbuck, James Marshall; aged 73 years.
- THOMSON.—At Sanquhar on 21st July, Alexander Thomson.
- WALLACE.—At 11 Stoneyhill Avenue on 4th August, Isabella Mathieson, formerly of 4 Wellwood Avenue; aged 75 years.
- ROSS.—At Glasgow on 3rd August, John Ross; aged 72 years.
- TAYLOR.—At Kirkcaldy on 7th August, Matthew Taylor, aged 75 years.
- CRAWFORD.—At Ballochmyle on 15th August, Agnes Brown, 62 Pagan Walk; aged 82 years.
- McSKIMMING.—At 3 Lovedale Crescent on 16th August, Duncan McSkimming; aged 80 years.
- MORRISON.—At 123 Henderson Drive on 18th August, Jean McCall; aged 67 years.
- MURDOCH.—At Ballochmyle on 17th August, Hugh Murdoch, 8 Burns Avenue; aged 72 years.
- JOYCE.—On 21st August, Harry Joyce, London; aged 50 years.
- GOURLAY.—At Ballochmyle on 1st September, Aaron Gourlay, of 6 Garronhill.
- HOGG.—At Ballochmyle on 15th September, Christine Kilpatrick, 65 Main Street; aged 42 years.
- NEIL.—At Ballochmyle on 22nd September, Andrew Neil, 19 Wellwood Street; aged 79 years.
- CLOSE.—In U.S.A. on 29th September, Betty Close, late of Linkieburn, Muirkirk.
- SMITH.—At 33 Colthart Drive on 5th October, Thomas Smith; aged 71 years.
- WALKER.—At 30 Glasgow Road on 10th October, Agnes Samson; aged 75 years.
- SAMSON.—At Ballochmyle on 20th October, James Samson, 105 Henderson Drive; aged 32 years.
- PETERS.—At 14 Pagan Walk on 29th October, Jane Faulds; aged 80 years.
- SHAW.—At Whitley Bay on 9th November, Ray Wallace (late of Glenbuck).
- SHIELDS.—On 19th November, Thomas Shields, 22 Pagan Walk; aged 50 years.
- DICKIE.—At Ballochmyle on 30th November, Martha Crawford, 92 Henderson Drive; aged 54 years.
- PARKER.—At 103 Main Street on 30th November, Helen Murdoch; aged 82 years.
- BLACKWOOD.—At Girvan on 20th December, Annie Millar; aged 77 years.
- CULLEY.—In Orkney on 17th November, William Culley; aged 50 years.
- LAIDLAW.—At 13 Wellwood Street on 20th December, William Laidlaw; aged 50 years.
- SEYMOUR.—At Ayr on 18th December, Margaret Rowe; aged 82 years.
- MURRAY.—At Ballochmyle on 18th December, Janet Beck, 20 Lovedale Crescent; aged 74 years.
- BULLOCH.—At 8 Shawknowe Avenue on 27th December, John Bulloch; aged 74 years.
- KIRKWOOD.—At 27 Wellwood Avenue on 29th December, Robert Kirkwood (Grocer); aged 80 years.
- NEIL.—At Kilmarnock on 28th December, Charlotte McDonald; aged 77 years.

THE FINAL CHAPTER

(1974)

The Great Storm

Muirkirk felt the full force of the severe gale which lashed Scotland during the hours of Friday (11th Jan.) and Saturday morning, and which left a trail of havoc and destruction in its wake.

The wind, which reached its worst between six and eight o'clock on Saturday morning, had gusts of hurricane force. It was quite a terrifying experience, and there was little sleep in the village that night.

The damage caused was tremendous. Garages were blown clean off their foundations, some being found several gardens away, as were garden huts and outhouses. Greenhouses were left in a shambles, and trees were uprooted. Damages to houses was extensive with slates broken and chimney cans and heads dislodged.

Part of the front roof of a prefab at Miller Road was ripped off. The occupants, Mr and Mrs James Purdie, were unhurt, and were later re-housed at Middlefield Drive.

The putting green attendant's kiosk at Victory Park was blown over.

But it was at the top of the town that the worst damage was caused, it taking on the appearance of a disaster area.

A chimney stack at the flatted houses at Wellwood Street came crashing down through the roof and through the ceiling of the top flat, occupied by Mr and Mrs John Dempster, causing extensive damage and caving in his floor and the ceiling of the flat below, occupied by Mr and Mrs Danny Sneddon, where the damage was only slight.

Not far away at Carruthers Park another chimney stack gave way and crashed through the top flat of Mr and Mrs Alex. Dempster, causing a lot of damage, with some minor damage to the flat below of Mr and Mrs Tommy Mackin.

It was thought that the two stacks had come down about 7.15 in the morning, but it is a miracle that no one was hurt. One shudders to think what the consequences would have been had the stacks fell on the other side—where the bedrooms are situated, and where the occupants were sleeping.

Early morning travellers on the Sorn Road found their way blocked by fallen trees, and they were forced to back track and go the Cumnock Road. More fallen trees had blocked the Douglas Road on the other side of the Glenbuck dam, but these two roads were soon cleared.

The winds have since abated, but for some people in the village it will be an experience to remember for the rest of their lives.

Stories are still coming in of experiences of the storm—one young lady was blown clean off her doorstep into the rose garden; one man still hasn't found the roof of his hut.

No matter where one looks, evidence of the ferocity of the gale can be found, broken slates and debris all over the place, even the countryside did not escape, with trees and shrubs mutilated.

OBITUARY

Another link with old Muirkirk has been severed with the passing of Mr Robert Kirkwood. For many years, Mr Kirkwood carried on a family grocery business in Main Street, previously being employed by Muirkirk Co-operative Society. Bob took a keen interest in local affairs. He was one of the pillars of Muirkirk Parish Church, being an Elder at one time. He was also a member of Muirkirk Continuation Class Choir, who were so much a part of the village at one time. He is survived by his only son, Tom.

GOLDEN WEDDING



MR AND MRS WILLIAM McCALL

The Golden Wedding anniversary of a well-known and highly-respected couple, Mr and Mrs William McCall, 26 Lapraik Avenue, was celebrated on 21st December last. The couple were married at 3 Old Terrace, Muirkirk, on 21st December, 1923, by the late Rev. John Henderson, B.D., but the actual celebration was held over for a week to allow guests from south of the border to attend.

As a lad of fourteen years, Willie McCall started his working life in 1913, helping his father at the coal face in Kames Colliery, and was a mining student under the well-loved and much respected Bob Steven. He was an oversman at Kames before going to Lanarkshire as an under-manager in 1929, and in this capacity he served at Bellshill and Uddingston till 1934.

Following this he spent 16 years as under-manager at Dalkeith Colliery before going north to Brora, where he was manager and director for seven years. During his term there, Brora Colliery won the "News of the World" silver cup and a cheque for 200 guineas for the highest output in the small collieries class for the whole of Great Britain in the year 1951.

Mr McCall then served for five-and-a-half years at Lady Victoria Colliery, Newtongrange, in an official advisory capacity, but had to retire in 1963 owing to health reasons. Then the couple came back to their native Muirkirk to spend the twilight of their lives among their ain folk.

About one hundred relatives and friends celebrated the occasion at a function in the Community Hall.

The Energy Crisis and Three-Day Week

January 10.—Industrial action in the country continues to make the energy crisis worse—and last week saw the start of the compulsory three-day week. In Muirkirk itself the permitted days for using electrical power are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Quite a few of our local commuters are affected, and the factories of Muirtex and G-K Wear are both on short time. At time of writing there seems little prospect of an early settlement

January 17.—The fuel crisis continues, and at time of writing there seems little prospect of an industrial settlement. Indeed, indications are that the P.M. will call an early general Election, probably in February.

January 24.—With both the Government and the miners digging in their heels in the present industrial dispute, there seems little hope of an early settlement. Indeed, indications are that miners might extend their over-time ban and go as far as an all-out strike. Meantime the power restrictions are still with us, although there is hope that full-time working will be resumes shortly.

January 31.—At time of writing, there is still stalemate between the Government and the miners over the wage dispute, and with the N.U.M. balloting its members for strike action, the immediate prospects look very dim indeed. As a result of this impending ballot the Government have decided to continue with the three-day working week. So far there have been no power cuts, but should the miners decide to call a strike one shudders to think of the consequences. However, all is not lost, and there are hopes in some quarters that a settlement can be reached in time to avert what can mildly be called a very serious situation. Here's hoping.

February 7.—Last week the miners voted to give their National Executive the right to call a strike in pursuance of their wage claim. The vote was overwhelmingly in favour, and as a result the Executive have called a National Strike as from Saturday evening. The miners hope to gain the support of other Trade Unions, and with no sign of the Government relenting, it would appear that we are on the brink of an abyss, from which it will be difficult to retract, and which can only bring suffering and hardship to a great many people. There is talk of the Prime Minister calling a General Election on the issue, but whether this would solve the immediate problem is very doubtful, for at the end of the day the miners' case will have to be dealt with—one way or another. At time of writing, complete deadlock remains, but all of us hope that between now and Saturday night some way will be found of averting a situation that could have grave consequences on the entire community, not least the miners.

February 14.—As was generally expected the Executive of the National Union of Mineworkers called a national strike last week, and this came into effect on Saturday at midnight. The strike is in pursuance of a wage claim, which the Government have restricted under Phase Three of their wages policy. A prolonged strike could bring hardship to many quarters, and

the threat of long power cuts is now an immediate possibility. A local Strike Committee has been formed, and already moves have been made to raise funds to help sustain the strike.

February 21—

With the general Election campaign gaining momentum, one is inclined to forget that body of men whom the Government said were responsible for calling an election—the miners, who are now in their second week of their National Strike in an effort to obtain higher wages.

* * * * *

So far as Muirkirk is concerned, no side-effects of the strike have yet been felt, but of course if the stoppage continues for any length of time there will undoubtedly be hardship in many quarters, with public services likely to be disrupted as well as the inevitable power cuts. We are already experiencing reductions in voltage.

Restrictions have been lifted on late-night TV viewing during the Election campaign.

* * * * *

To brighten up these rather gloomy days we were pleased to welcome back on BBC TV, on Monday, of that favourite of all ages—Dougall and the Magic Round About.

* * * * *

But back to the Strike. Muirkirk miners were quick to react on the commencement of the Strike. A Strike Committee was formed within a day or two.

Muirkirk Working Men's Club granted the use of the facilities of the Club and the kitchen staff volunteered their services to provide meals for pickets and those most in need. In this respect local merchants and traders were not found wanting, and donated generously.

* * * * *

Pickets from Muirkirk have already played their part in other areas of the County, and have, at the same time, won the respect of non-mining sections of the community by the orderly manner in which they carried out their duties.

* * * * *

With the clerical and administrative workers supporting the miners, volunteers from these grades have had to be found to process coal for hospitals, schools, and old people's homes.

At time of writing plans have been formulated by the Strike Committee to ensure that old age pensioners will be supplied with coal from the local "bing" to help alleviate any shortages. In this latter project co-operation from other local organisations is greatly acknowledged.

* * * * *

It's an ill wind. The countryside is getting a clean up, with the miners removing old and blown-down trees and sawing them up into logs to help make the coal spin out.

* * * * *

Because of a separate agreement, private mines have been obliged to continue operating for the first two weeks of the strike.

THE ENERGY CRISIS (Continued)

However, workers at the two private mines at Glenbuck will join the National Strike this week-end.

* * * * *

With the N.U.M. putting their case before Relativities Board, it is hoped that the outcome of this enquiry might lead to a settlement in the dispute.

* * * * *

Muirkirk is perhaps lucky in one respect—we have our own gas-producing plant at Furnace Road, and we understand that there is enough coal to last several weeks.

February 28.—The Election has rather over-shadowed the fact that we are now in the third week of the miners' strike. Indications are, however, that a settlement is possible when the new Government is formed

March 7.—The General Election was responsible for putting the miners' strike, now in its fourth week, in the background, but it didn't alter the situation in any way. However, with Mr Harold Wilson forming a minority Labour Government, and the N.U.M. and the N.C.B starting re-negotiations on Wednesday, hopes are high for an early settlement.

March 14.—STRIKE ENDED

A generous increase was offered to the miners last week and this was readily accepted. As a result, after a four weeks strike, the miners were back at work on Monday, and sighs of relief were heard from many quarters.

“Sair bones” seem to be the main complaint from the miners this week.

In conjunction with the strike being settled, the new Government was able to call off the state of emergency, and all the workers are now back to full-time employment. Heating and lighting restrictions have also been lifted

NEW FACTORY

We understand that the Boys' Brigade Hall in Glasgow Road (formerly the EU Congregational Church) has been sold to a Glasgow firm—Acme (Overalls), Ltd.

**THE GENERAL ELECTION
SOUTH AYRSHIRE RESULT**

JIM SILLARS (Labour)	23,093
Bob Colquhoun (Conservative)	10,643
Roger Mullin (S.N.P.)	6,612
Labour Majority	12,450

The 1979 figures were:—

Jim Sillars (Labour)	23,910
A. D. Simpson (Con.)	11,675
S. H. Purdie (S.N.P.)	3,102
Labour Majority	12,235

Correspondence

BANKHEAD PIT

Sir,—Being an old Muirkirk man and a reader of the “Advertiser,” could I please draw your attention to an article in “Bygone Days.” It is about an accident that happened at Bankhead Pit on 18th April, 1911. I was one of the men present at the accident, along with John Wilson (Colliery Fireman), John Shaw (son of Mr Shaw, the Manager), and Adam Easton (son of Mr John Easton, Oversman).

We were all members of Muirkirk Ambulance Class. This was under the Railway Section, and the Class was conducted on a Sunday at the Railway Station. Dr T. B. Marshall was the Instructor.

John Wilson was a good Ambulance man, and he took charge of the accident to Terence Morran. The victim was rushed to the Station in time for the early train, and taken straight to Edinburgh. He was attended to on the train still in his pit clothes.

When he came home from Edinburgh Infirmary, Mr Morran visited those who had done so much for him at the time of the accident, expressing his heart-felt thanks. He had been told to do so by the doctors at Edinburgh, as the Muirkirk Ambulance men had done such a good job that the doctors were able to save his leg.

In my working time in the pits I have seen many accidents to workmen and rendered first aid many a time. It is good for workers to attend First Aid Classes and to be able to help if required.—Yours, ADAM EASTON.
Shotts.

THE WEE HOOSE

Often referred to as “The Wee Hoose at the fuit o’ Cairntable,” Riggend is now empty. The white-washed cottage, which nestles at the foot of the hill just above the old Auldhouseburn Golf Course, was the home for as long as we can remember of Mr and Mrs Jimmy Campbell. The old couple have now been rehoused in the sheltered scheme at Main Street.

Their presence at Riggend will undoubtedly be missed. Many a winter's night the bright light from their lamp came twinkling through the darkness to remind us that there was indeed life at the foot of the hill.

While Mr and Mrs Campbell will no doubt enjoy the comforts of their new home, I suspect that their own thoughts will never be far away from Riggend.

One thing is sure—we'll all miss the light from the wee hoose.

We have just learned that Mr and Mrs Jimmy Campbell had lived their for 39 years!

PLANTATION FIRES

In April there several outbreaks of fire in the woodland plantation around Bankend, and the Fire Brigade authorities were kept busy. With wind changing directions, it was difficult to get the blaze under control, but eventually it was extinguished, although later on the Brigades were called out again, when apparently smouldering fencing stabs ignited and started the fires again. The damage to trees was estimated at £90,000.

MUIRKIRK BOWLING CLUB CENTENARY 1874 —1974

Saturday, 20th April was a very special day in the annals of Muirkirk Bowling Club, it being their Centenary. The bowlers were in luck that day when fine spring-like weather and a large number of members and visitors turned out for the opening of the green.

Just after 3 p.m., Mr John Turner, the retiring President, opened the proceedings and introduced the Centenary President, Mr William Anderson. Bill of course, is no stranger to this sort of thing, he being president in 1937! Mr Anderson, who has been a playing member for 50 years, in a well-worded speech, welcomed all, and spoke of the importance of the occasion, and expressed the hope that perhaps this would be Muirkirk's year for bringing home the silverware. He then called on his good lady to throw the first jack and bowls, and so Muirkirk Bowling Club entered another era in its long and honourable history.

Thereafter the customary game between teams representing the President and Vice-President took place, and after the match the company re-assembled in the adjacent Church Hall, where a fine meal was served, and the usual speech-making took place.

Mr Peter Drummond, Hon. President, attended, as did the following Past Presidents:—David Taylor, Richard Bell, Joseph Murdoch, Alex. Brown, Francis K. Lochhead, Thomas McCulloch, James McLaughlan, William Mathieson, David Towle, Thomas Hogg, Hugh Welsh, William Rae, James Leslie, Tom Short, Fred Crawford, John Turner, and Andrew Little.

INCREASE IN COST

Despite ever-rising costs of materials and over-head expenses, we have managed to keep the price of the "Advertiser" at three halfpence since 1969.

However, the most recent rise in the price of Newsprint (from £92 per ton to £180 per ton) and type-casting metal (from £292 per ton to £439 per ton), plus rises in other over-head items, has forced us to review the price of the "Advertiser."

As a result, it will be necessary to increase the price of the "Advertiser" as from next week, 14th March, to 2p.

We regret very much the need for this step, but the fact is that the "Advertiser" has had to be subsidised for some time past now.

At the same time we express the hope that readers and advertisers will appreciate our difficulties at this time, and by continuing with their support, keep alive Muirkirk's own "Wee Paper."

LARGE CANNING FACTORY PLANNED FOR OLD IRONWORKS SITE

Plus Clothing Factory in former E.U. Church

The monthly meeting of Ayr County Council was held on Tuesday (26th March), and from amongst the minutes submitted for approval we note the following items of local interest.

Muirkirk : Furnace Road : Station Proposed Dog Food Canning Factory

Submitted application for permission to erect a dog food canning factory and by-product factory on the east side of Furnace Road to the north of the disused Muirkirk Railway station.

The application also proposes a separate office building, powerhouse, and workshop. No provision has been made for this development in the planning of the new sewage works for Muirkirk, which will be completed this summer. It is possible that foul and processed water could be discharged to a nearby sewer by some adjustment of the layout, but the sewage works to which this is connected is in a ruinous condition and would require to undergo major repairs not budgeted for. Before the County Surveyor and Engineer could recommend to the Council any expenditure on this he would require to have details regarding the volume and nature of discharge from the proposed development in order to assess the practicability of the proposal.

Agreed to grant the application on condition that appropriate arrangements are made for the drainage of the proposed development and the layout amended if necessary to meet the drainage requirements.

Muirkirk:

Glasgow Road : Proposed Factory

Submitted application for permission to change the use of the Boys' Brigade Hall on the east side of Glasgow Road, Muirkirk, to use as a factory for making overalls.

The only works involved are the provision of toilet accommodation within the rear portion of the building. It is understood that approximately 20 people will be employed, and the Planning Officer has issued an appropriate planning consent.

EMERGENCY AT MUIRKIRK GAS WORKS

While the village slept peacefully on Friday night (3rd May) a very serious situation was developing at Muirkirk Gas Works. Because a member of the staff failed to report for duty that night gas production at the plant fell below the level of demand.

It was our local baker, Mr Tom Hogg, who noticed in the early hours of Saturday morning that there was little or no pressure of gas in his hot plates. He immediately aroused the Gas Manager, Mr David Paterson. On discovering the cause of the falling gas pressure the supply was immediately cut off, and about 1,000 consumers were roused from their beds in order that all gas appliances could be turned off. It was late on Saturday evening before the supply was restore.

A statement from the Scottish Gas Board indicated that disciplinary action would be taken against those responsible.

NEW CRAZE

Well, after four weeks of "strikers" news, we now have a new craze (specially imported from the U.S.A.)—"Streaking," the art (if you can call it that) of dashing about in public dressed only in birthday suits. What some people will do to keep abreast of the times!

We thought it rather cold weather for this sort of thing in Muirkirk—but not so in the vicinity of the Victory Park on Sunday night! Sorry we have no more information about this incident as we were only given the bare facts!

CAR BLAZE

A quite spectacular fire took place in Main Street on Saturday evening, 13th April, opposite the Crown Bar.

About 10 p.m. a Ford Escort, being driven by Mr Ian Menzies, had to be abandoned in the middle of the road when the engine caught fire. Several attempts were made with fire extinguishers to dampen the blaze, and although at one stage it appeared to have been extinguished the vehicle suddenly burst into flames again with a column of black smoke rising into the night air.

The local Fire Brigade were summoned, and with the danger of an explosion, near-by cars were pushed to safety. Local firemen soon had the blaze extinguished, but not before the car had been completely gutted. It was thought the blaze had been caused by an electrical fault.

THE "ADVERTISER"

Our local newspaper has been acquired by Arthur Guthrie & Sons, Ltd., the Ardrossan based group of Ayrshire weekly newspapers. The first issue under new management will be on Thursday, 6th June. Mr James Taylor will remain as Editorial and Advertising representative.

The last issue to be printed in Muirkirk was on 30th May.

LOCAL STATISTICS—1974**BIRTHS**

STEVENSON.—To Mr and Mrs William Stevenson (Jean Smith) on 3rd January; a daughter.

WYLIE.—To Mr and Mrs George Wylie (Linda Watson) on 24th January; a daughter.

GIBSON.—To Mr and Mrs Gilbert Gibson (Crawford Davidson) on 29th January; a daughter.

MORRISON.—To Mr and Mrs Robert Morrison (Davina Park) on 24th January; a son.

BARRIE.—To Mr and Mrs Tom Barrie (Margaret Leslie) on 30th April; a son.

MAURER.—To Mr and Mrs Eddie Maurer (Kathleen Boland) on 27th April; a son.

MARRIAGES

CLARK ROWE to JANET WILSON on 19th January.

LESLIE CARTER to GLORIA DONES on 15th April.

ANDREW BROWN to SUSAN PARK on 4th May.

DEATHS

PRENTICE.—At 105 Main Street on 4th January, Elizabeth Ferguson; aged 70 years.

LAMBIE.—At Chelmsford on 12th January, Helen Lambie.

LESLIE.—At Irvine on 17th January, David Leslie, 24 Middlefield Drive; aged 74 years.

McBRIDE.—At 37 Stoneyhill Avenue on 9th February, Mary Kirkwood.

CRUICKSHANK.—At Ballochmyle on 19th February, James Cruickshanks, 17 Glasgow Road; aged 43 years.

FERGUSON.—At Holmhead on 5th March, Liza Ferguson, 41 Garronhill; aged 90 years.

DICKSON.—At Ballochmyle on 18th March, William Dickson, 38 Glasgow Road; aged 76 years.

STARK.—At Corby on 7th April, William Stark, late of 16 Henderson Drive; aged 55 years.

TAIT.—At Ballochmyle on 5th April, Peter Tait, 90 Main Street; aged 79 years.

HENDERSON.—At Ballochmyle on 17th April, Douglas Henderson, 24 Carruthers Park; aged 74 years.

ANDERSON.—At Irvine on 6th May, Robert Anderson; aged 81 years.

BROWN.—At Ballochmyle on 6th May, William Brown, formerly of 14 Springhill Terrace; aged 63 years.

McDADE.—At Ayr on 3rd May, William McDade, 41 Pagan Walk; aged 77 years.

WILSON.—At Ballochmyle on 19th May, Emma Stewart, 26 Hawkshaw Crescent; aged 86 years.

BROWN.—At Ballochmyle on 27th May, William Brown, 25 Wellwood Street; aged 89 years.

KELLY.—At 2 Shawknowe Avenue on 25th May, Mary Blackwood; aged 77 years.

THE END

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CAIRNTABLE ECHOES



BY

JAMES TAYLOR

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS:

(Commencing from Top Left, Clockwise)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Burnside Row | 2. Main Street | 3. Furnace Road |
| 4. Brown's Fruit Shop | 5. Old Golf Course | 6. Laird Mathieson |
| 7. Victoria Buildings | 8. Aird's Shop | 9. Top of Glasgow Road |
| 10. Smallburn | 11. Kirkgreen | 12. Glenbuck Village |
| 13. Old Bank Cottage | 14. Store Baker | 15. First Kameshill |
| 16. Toon Store Clock | | |

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