

1938

Jan 8 **No work on Hogmanay this year** - In earlier years there would have been a B.A. on January 1 but not this year.

The B.A. still carried a notice for Horse-Drawn Carriage licenses including Hackney Carriage – Local Tax Office, Banff.

Enzie Amateur Dramatic Society put on their performance for 1938 on Wednesday and Thursday of the previous week.

On Wednesday the plays put on were – Spaewife; Stewart of Ardbeg; The Income, When The Cat's Awa'.

On Thursday patrons saw a repeat performance of The Luck of The Draw and a repeat of Stewart of Ardbeg.

Those performing were – Marian Adams, Mary Duncan, John Black, James Forbes. Mrs E.Geddes, Sarah Forbes, James Thain, A. Paterson, George Grigor, Peter Grigor, B.Thain, Miss Mustard, Dolly Guthrie, Miss J. McCurrach, Frank Reid, Miss A.Corr, C.Paterson, Willie Potts, John Bonnyman, John Hendry.

The following had parts in two plays – John Black, James Forbes, James Thain, Miss McCurrach and Mary Duncan.

Producers were John H.Duncan and P.Urquhart. John Gordon was Stage Manager, John Bonnyman was in charge of the Stage Lighting while Miss Cormack, Buckie did the make up.

***** **Herring was landed on Sunday at Buckie from the Portknockie boat Heathery Brae.** She had caught 117 cran of herring off the Isle of Lewis plus giving 70-80 cran to the Three Belles, Findochty when she was in danger of becoming overloaded. She went into Wick only to take ground when on the point of leaving and didn't make Buckie until just before midnight. With orders that the fish had to be kippered not later than the following day there was no other recourse, apart from dumping, but to land them on Sunday.

Jan 13 **Sorry bit yer firewid hist tae ging up** - A.Gordon, Firewood Merchant, was advising customers that there would be an increase of 1d per basket on and after Saturday 15 January.

He came back to Strathlene on good terms - Mr Manson, Moray Golf Club took on the job at Strathlene House at a wage of £3 per week plus 10% of profits for services of himself and his wife. He was previously manager at Strathlene before going to Lossiemouth.

The new school at Portessie - A report is given on page 7 column 6 on the opening of the new school at Portessie.

The cost of building and furnishing was £10,000. The contractors were - Mason - Messrs Douglas and Sons, Joiners, A.Campbell and Son; Plumber H.J.Watson, Banff; Plasterer, Geo. Packman, Buckie; Slater, W.A.Strathdee, Portsoy; Painter, Ralph Smith, Findochty; Heating, Taylor and Fraser, Glasgow; Metal Windows, Crittal, Manufacturing Coy. Glasgow; Electric Lighting, J&T Campbell, Buckie; Reinforced concrete, Messrs J.Scott and Son, Aberdeen.

Jan 20 **The ferm lads held a meeting** - The monthly meeting of the Farm Servants' Union took place at Clochan when Charles Taylor presided.

A branch association of Old Aged Pensioners was set up in Buckie this week

Findochty lad to be a PE teacher - John Fraser, known as Johnnie, 16 Mid Street, Findochty, got a bursary of £25 to attend Jordanhill College in Glasgow to train as a P.E. teacher. He got an increase of £10 because of circumstances. John was a keen footballer and had helped out Buckie Thistle on a number of occasions while at school. He was to play with Buckie Rovers after the war in their first cup final when he was unlucky enough to have his ankle broken.

Jan 27 **Town Councillor Wm. Hamilton, resigned** as he had left the town to work in John Brown's Shipyard on the Clyde. He had been in Buckie for the previous 17 years after arriving in the town with his two brothers. He was to become foreman plater working on the sister ship to the Queen Mary. (Later to become the Queen Elizabeth)

A swimming pool for Portknockie was proposed.

Severe gales wrecked havoc through much of the north though it appears it must have been far less severe in the Buckie area. In Lossiemouth the whole roof of the new High School, 100' by 40' was torn off and deposited 40 yards away upsides down. Included in the roof was all the wooden framework and coping stones. Despite the removal of the roof not one pane of glass was broken. A lot of damage was done to hen houses and corn stacks that were blown away.

A new hall for Portgordon? On page 6, column 2 there is a report on a proposed Public Hall for Portgordon.

Another accident at the Toll Bar junction - with a motor cycle and a lorry.

Chauvinism? There might have been a woman on the Council - Councillor John Moar moved that Mrs Esther West be approached to fill the vacancy on the council created by the resignation of Co. Hamilton. He got no seconder. Mr Brunton who had previously been a councillor was duly proposed and seconded.

The Air Ministry were not interested - The Town Council members were disappointed that the Air Ministry had not taken up their offer of a landing ground at Buckpool and also near to Inchgower while they had already taken lease of land near to Lossiemouth and Forres. They said how it would have meant a great help to the unemployed if the land had been taken.

Feb 10 **'Seat letting'** - The North Church - Church of Scotland was advising that 'seat letting' was to take place on Monday February 14.

***** **When the burgh of Buckie came into being.** On page 2 columns 4 and 5 there is a report given of The Start of Buckie Burgh **16 February 1888.** The inaugural meeting took place in the Fishermen's Hall with a report of the first minute.

A win for Buckie - Thistle 2 Inverness Thistle 0 H/L Wood, F.Smith and John Bowie; Middleton, Logie and Laing; Jas. Bowie, James Smith, Calder, Cormack, Duncan.

*** **"Buckie Now and Then" (contributed)** - see page 2 column 1

Would you, please, reduce your charge? Findochty Town Council was asking Buckie Town Council on behalf of Findochty Football Club if they would consider giving the club the lease of the football pitch at Strathlene at a figure of 5/- per month. The previous charge of 10/- per month had proved too much for a previous football club causing them to fold.

Poem on page 8 Column 1 "Memories" BEC Jaune

Feb 17 **Buckie Literary and Debating Society** held their regular meeting in the Commercial Hotel Hall.

Poem on page 8 column 2 "Dawn On The Moray Firth" *** B.E.C. Jaune

Separate pages- The Banffshire Advertiser was now printed on separate pages with a letter to the press stating how this was welcomed.

Arradoul W.R.I. Drama Group put on a play called "The Glendarroch Affair" by Joe Corrie
Those playing a part were - Lily Young, Essil Dyker, Bruce Birnie and Alex Mackay.
Producer - George Coutts, Buckie

What is the school to be called ? It was decided that the new school at Portessie would be called Rathven after the Schools sub-committee had voted 13 to 7 for this. Some people had called for it to be called Portessie/Rathven while the Portessie Ratepayers Association had suggested Portessie School. It was some time later before this was finally agreed the name for the school.

Feb 24 **War graves slide show** - There is to be an exhibition of war graves slides of British Cemeteries in the St Andrews Hall by A.B.Mcleod, Aberdeen. (British Legion)

Hitler on the warpath - A newspaper report spoke of Hitler being on the warpath with a speech of defiance to the world. He was said to be banging and bolting the door against reconciliation.

Webster's Garage was advertising an almost human wireless. 'Press the button and the set does the rest.'

Bottle went a long way - Alex John Murray, apprentice electrician at the local power station, threw a bottle into the sea near his place of work on the 10th May 1937. Recently, said the report, he had received a letter from Kyreksend in Sweden saying that the bottle had been washed ashore there.

Captain Dod Osborne was one of the speakers at the Buckie Literary and Debating Society meeting. Captain Osborne earned fame or notoriety after stealing the fishing boat Girl Pat and sailing it to French Guinea or Devil's Island off the coast of South America. For navigation it was said he only had a school atlas. The report is given on page 5 column 1

A new column was started in the 'Advertiser' this week written by 'Wilderness' and titled 'Picked Up During A Stroll Around Buckie' Seen on page 8 column 1

The first Buckie High School notes also appeared in this edition of the B. A. Three High School boys have been selected for the Banffshire football team - namely A. Stewart, Alex Cowie and George Sandison.

The Buckie High School team reads - A.Singer, P.Reid and W.Rae; A.Imlah, E.Dyce and J.Slater; J.Stewart, J.Garden, Campbell, W.Innes and W.Cormack. The team drew with Gordon Schools Huntly, to lose their first point of the season in the Herd Cup League

Mar 3 **To re-open after major fire** - The local drill hall which had been almost completely destroyed by fire around two years before is to be opened on Wednesday 9 March by Mr James Archibald, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire.

***** **Another new column 'Buckie and District Half a Century Ago'.** This gives extracts from the B.A. of 1882. It spoke of the remarkable growth of the town. See page 3 and columns 5 and six.

Teams in the Welfare League - Rovers, Portgordon, Fochabers, Mosstodloch, Findochty and Terriers.

Welfare League official retires - Jas. F.Callaghan retired as treasurer of the Welfare League. He got a presentation at the A.G.M.

***** **Buckie Thistle directors have stated that the club is in a perilous financial state.** In a letter to the B.A. the write suggests that the team ought to go amateur as the only solution with players being given expenses only and no salaries to the officials. Expenses must be cut down before the club suffers the same fate as Inverness Citadel and go defunct.

A new greenkeeper - James Packman 3 Baron Street was appointed greenkeeper of the Victoria Bowling Green.

" **Japan Wants To Be Friends With Britain**" So we read on page 5.

Buckie High School won the Herd Cup League for the third year in succession.

The other teams were - Fordyce, Huntly, Keith, Banff and Mortlach.

Mar 10 **Poem on page 2 " Growing Old"** Rollin J Wells (Scottish Baptist magazine)

"Scotch Wedding " Buckie as Gretna Green - see page 3 column 6

***** An Elgin girl together with her husband and witnesses called at Cluny Harbour and asked if someone would take them three miles off shore to be married . No one was willing to do so because of stormy conditions so the couple was married under the rules of "Scotch Wedding" in the watchman's hut. They vowed to take one another for better or for worse in front of witnesses. They aimed to be married again later.

Still knocking them in - Sandy McIennan a prolific goal scorer when with Buckie Thistle prior to leaving for Partick Thistle, was again 'knocking them in' for Elgin City. He was second in the table of top scorers with 24 goals from 18 games.

***** **Buckie Thistle were in straitened circumstances and unable to meet expenses.** They asked whether the T.C. would help. There was talk of going into voluntary liquidation. The Thistle chairman said that he believed that their problems were caused through problems in the fishing herring industry. Many young men had left the town while the fishermen who remained lacked the money to attend games and support the team.

The T.C. passed a number of plans - petrol pumps at Baron Street for Richard 'Dicky' Grant, Garage and Motor Hirer. They also passed plans for a house on Cliff Terrace for W. B. Barclay. Plumber and for a surgery at 93 West Church Street for Dr Hendry also an annexe consisting of five bedrooms and a sun parlour at Strathlene House.

Wise saying - "He who has nothing to boast about but his ancestry is like a potato, the only good belonging to him is underground."

Mar 17 **Buckie were leading the field regarding the recruitment of men to the Territorials,** 25 men signed up during the past year compared with only 10 in Huntly and 4 in Keith.

***** **In page three there is a report of Buckie from 1888 to 1938**

Cluny Harbour - A report says how John Gordon of Cluny witnessed the 'Sma Wick' disaster while standing at the 'Neuk' and later gave money to build Cluny Harbour in 1880. The first Cluny Harbour only had the one basin then the area known as the fu' sea. The harbour was bought by the T.C. in 1909 for the sum of £60,000 payable over a period of 20 years. Major extensions followed, notably in 1912- at a cost of £180,000 - partly raised from a dividend of 7 and a half % which the fishermen promised on their boat's earnings- and again in 1931.

***** **Council more or less turn a deaf ear** - The members of the T.C. gave little support to the plea made by Buckie Thistle Football Club Ltd with Councillor MacDonald suggesting that the sum of £40 should be given to a completely new club. The inference gathered here being that he felt there was some mismanagement by the present officials. It was later agreed that the sum of £20 be given to the Thistle Club to enable them to fulfil this season's fixtures.

Mar 24 **Women were now being enrolled for war services**

Clever and witty sayings are found in the weekly column written by 'Wilderness'

Mar 31 **The 'Open Brethren' now own the former Good Templars Hall** A special Gospel Convention is to take place there, the speaker to be Harold German -Evan from Devon

The St Andrews Hotel - Robert Chisholm, Dalbeattie, Ayrshire made application for the license of the St Andrew's Hotel at **9 St Peter's Place**.

I'll tak a yer tagger - Mrs Calder, 2 New Street, was offering highest prices for Woollen rags, and scrap, brass, lead and copper.

A poem is found on page 3 column 4 "Memories" by J.G. Birmingham. (He talks about the area around the Durn Hill)

The largest cargo of grain ever landed was made at Buckie during the past week , which consisted of nine hundred tons of Danish grain which was then sent on by rail to Speyside distilleries. This gave a good deal of work for stevedores and carters.

Apr 7 **Makes for interesting reading** - The three columns Wilderness, Observer and Buckie and District Half a Century Ago was still being written.

**** **Buckie Thistle Football Club Ltd** -It was stated that when Buckie Thistle Football Club Ltd were in negotiations with the Cluny Estates regarding land for a football pitch this was given at a cost of £3,000 but on a year by year lease basis. The Football Club, a limited company, were keen for the T.C. to take over the ground etc and to lease it back to them at a figure to be established. They spoke of the T.C. having golf clubs, Buckpool and Strathlene also tennis courts and saw the football ground being let on the same basis.

"When Portgordon Flourished"- you will find this article on page 6 column 6.

Apr 14 **Robert Chisholm took over the St Andrew's Hotel from Mr Clelland** . The hotel side of affairs had been ran down and there was a need to develop this far more.

Poem on page ? column ? "The Crafter's Bairn" J.G - .Birmingham

Apr 21 **He must had plenty to say** - Harold German was preaching every night in the week apart from Saturday.

Findochty beat the Rovers by 4 goals to 0 in the Welfare League

The teams were - Rovers - Murray, Lobban and J.W.Cowie, Ashby, Reid and Hay; John Coull, Hendry, Wilson,G.Cowie and E.Smith.

Findochty - Phimister, N.Smith and T.Bruce; J.W.Smith, W.Smith and Fraser; A.Campbell, Legge, Wm. Flett, J.Herd and G.Anderson.

Findochty beat the Terriers in the next match. The Terriers' team was - French, Clark and J.G.Mair; Campbell, Lyon and Spence; Thain Calder, J.Mair, Geddes and Gray

Apr 28 **Pinder's Circus is to pay a visit to Buckie**. They will be in the Commercial Park on 4 May.

Time in the jile seems oot o kither wi the fine - The fine for riding a bicycle without lights was 5/- or five days in jail.

Poem on page 3 column 2 "Farewell Craigin" by J.G. Birmingham.

Jags play a friendly - Buckie Thistle 3 Aberdeen 4 - Buckie were described as playing well against the senior side. The Thistle team was - Wood, Ross and F.Smith; Laing, Logie and Middleton; Cormack, Jas Bowie, Calder, Bain and Duncan.

Senior trial for local youngster - David Duncan, schoolboy and Buckie Thistle outside left, left for a trial period with Partick Thistle. He was to play against Third Lanark and Queens Park. He had played regularly on the left wing for the Thistle for the past two years. He intended to go to Jordanhill to train as a P.E.teacher.

At the annual general meeting of the Enzie Tennis Club mention was made of the big improvements which had been made to the court etc during the past close season. The elected officials were - John H.Duncan, president; Ben Sim, vice president; Miss J.Mackay, secretary; Miss M.Bruce, treasurer. Committee George Grigor, W.Green, T.Thain and P.Urquhart. Court convenors - J.McDonell, Leslie Forbes and J.Thain.

Apr 28 **Buckie and its water problem** - Talks were still taking place about taking water from the River Avon to cure the problems of water shortage in Buckie and the other coastal places. The matter was revived by the Banffshire Health Committee.

Buckie Rovers held a dance with 50 couples attending.

May 5 **Our milk is free from TB-** Cleanhill Farm had an advert in the B.A. each week telling that they had certified T.B. free milk on sale.

Rouping out of Minduff - R.G. Young who had taken over the farm of Arradoul from his father -in-law was rousing out of Minduff, which the two had at one time held in partnership. There were 12 horses for sale as well as 31 cattle.

Prospectors finding the going hot - A great many deaths were recorded amongst the prospectors on the search for gold in the hot desert state of Arizona

Buckpool Harbour - In a letter to the B.A. the writer asks why nothing was being done with the Buckpool Harbour which was no longer used by fishing boats. He said that it ought to have been made into a swimming pool, being far more accessible than Strathlene.

May 12 **A presentation took place at Gordon Castle** when gifts were handed over to the parting ducal family. The ceremony took place in the historic dining room. The Richmond and Gordon estates are now Crown property.

To go ahead at last - The T.C. have deliberated for some time about the construction of conveniences and shelters at Main Street and Seaview Road but they have now taken the decision to go ahead with the plans.

You knew that of course - The name of the path which leads from Rannas Place to Chancellor Road or the 'top of the brae' is called Paradise Path.

With the Town Band once again having folded Macduff Military Band were making enquiries about the instruments. The T.C., however, decided not to sell them.

Ye manna play cards for money, its nae richt - A group of Buckpool men were charged with playing cards for the purpose of gaming. They were admonished.

When the rain does come it's not unusual that it pours - There had been a long period without rain but this came to a sudden end with wide scale thunder and heavy downpours of rain.

The Millbank Garage, High Street, owner George Gray, was advertising the Triumph Dolomite 2 litre model at a cost of £368. The picture in the 'Advertiser' shows a superb looking motor.

May 26 **A poem is found on page 2 "The Road To Somewhere"** by W.T.McGregor

The farm of Drumdelgie in Cairnie which had been bought only the previous year by John Farquhar, Net Manufacturer was sold again by him to Ian Robertson Linkwood, Elgin. There were 690 acres on the farm which in addition to the farmhouse and steading had nine cottages for farm workers.

The death took place of Findochty goalkeeper, James Phimister at the untimely age of only 23. Besides playing for his village side he had played for Buckie Thistle and Forres Mechanics.

***** **On page 8 one can read an article by 'Buckie Loon' titled "Recollections of Buckie"** He mentions a small loch located where the former shipyard of Herd and McKenzie now stands which they had called "Rotten Peel". He also mentions a well which once existed near to the wooden bridge across the Buckie Burn which was called the "Fuskie Wallie".

An addition to the Highland League? There are indications that Rothes are to enter a team in the Highland League called Rothes Victoria.

June 2 **Opening announcement** - J & A Wiseman are to take over the Hairdressing business of the late James J. Menzies at 16 Cluny Square where both ladies and gents hairdressing will be carried on. (Charlie Cole was to later have a hairdresser's business there but through the 1980s and 1990s it was the office of the Anglia Building Society. In 1998 they closed the branch with the shop being opened in 1998 as a Ship's Chandler.

Was this cheap milk? Mill of Rathven had a big notice in the B.A. advertising their milk at 3d a pint.

A poem is found on page 2 "Farewell Speyside" by J.G. Birmingham.

Fochabers won the Brown Cup (Many years before this was called the Sunlight Cup given by Lever Bros. Soap Manufacturers and the only trophy played for by the local junior clubs over a two week period in summer between fishings)

You would know this - Third Lanark 'the Hi-Hi's' the former senior Glasgow football team, now defunct, was originally an army team.

June 9 **The death took place this week of William Lobban , Grocer**, who had only recently moved from Cluny Terrace to East Church Street. He had carried on the grocer's business on Cluny Terrace for a long time under the original name of Geddes.

Plans were submitted for a new primary school to be built on West Cathcart Street.

Fochabers won the Duncan Cup. This had been given to the Welfare League by John H. Duncan, Broadley, a businessman in Buckie and a previous president of the league.

Fochabers also took the County Cup presented by Banffshire MP of the time when the league came into being.

Mosstodloch won the Thomson Cup – This was originally given to be played for by fishermen.

Gordon Castle Games - An important event on the sporting calendar of the area is to end. There will to be no Gordon Castle Gathering this year (1938) The altered circumstances from professional to amateur has made the event less than viable to stage.

The grandstand was moved south and was used for many a day by spectators at Mackessack Park, Rothes.

***** **Will you please help us-** Buckie Thistle Football club are appealing for people to come forward with money to help them pay off the debt of £500 which is still outstanding from the original £3,000 of 1919. **The report is given on page 2 column 3**

The Welfare League held their Annual General Meeting in the Public Institute, Fochabers when all the teams were represented.

The winners of the trophies were – League Champions – Findochty;
County Cup and Brown Cup Duncan Shield, Fochabers;
Thomson Cup, Mosstodloch;
Commercial Shield, Portgordon
Mr A. Lawson, President of the Association presided.

June 23 **Sand in your shoes** - The town of Buckie and the surrounding area suffered from a sandstorm, the result of the long dry spell, and of much annoyance to all.

A favourite place - Quite a number of organisations held their picnics at the popular stance at Drybridge.

Water from the Spey tributary - The Findochty Town Council were talking about taking water from the River Fiddich.

Webster's Garage, was now advertising the new Austin, Ascot, 12 hp.

The dux of Buckie High School was Georgina Flett who also took the prize for French, English and Latin. Other prize winners were – Isobel Sandison, German and Ian Stephen, Maths and Science.

The dux of the primary school was Janet Shearer.

A poem is found on page 6 column 5 "Buckie's Bonnie Lasses " J.G. Birmingham.

I'll race you across the pond - Dod Osborne of Girl Pat fame was challenged to a race across the Atlantic in an open boat by a Mr Bull of Hull.

June 30 A large scale sale of manufactured timber was to take place at the Barhill Sawmill, owner F.G.Howie. Mr Howie later took on the farm of Holmie, Clochan.

On page 6 one can read of a football match which took place between soldiers of the 2nd Gordons stationed there. Buckie played the Broch and beat them. The members of the Buckie team were – Cormack, Watt and Spence; Ewen, Bowie and Cullinane; Thomson, Watt, Johnstone, Simpson and Campbell.

Football teams from Banff and Macduff were to unite to form a team to join the Highland League to be called Deveron Vale. The two words were later combined.

Jul 7 A Charities Fair involving the town councils of Buckie, Findochty and Portknockie was to take place from 13 to 20 July, with all of the events taking place at Strathlene.

Louis – Kings Café opened a new shop at 11 Rathburn Street as a fish and chip restaurant

L.T.McGarth, the firm which had been in business as an ironmonger and travel agent for many years had not had an illustrated advert in the paper for a number of years though he continued to advertise through the miscellaneous columns.

The columns written by 'Observer', 'Wilderness' and that concerning Buckie and District ½ century ago were still being written.

The bairns from Clochan school held their picnic at Strathlene but were not blest with good weather. The event had to be held indoors.

J.Mavor was ejected from Easter Gollachy, the land of which were now all incorporated within the new golf course at Buckpool. Some of the steading was utilised during the war from 1939 until 1945, perhaps later, to hold pigs.

The T.C. gave the go ahead for the conveniences and shelters to be built at Main Street and Seaview Road even though some councillors at this late stage were of the opinion that they were unnecessary, especially that on Seaview Road and were an expense which could have been avoided. Both structures were only to last something like 30-40 years before being demolished.

It was noticeable that the village of Lhanbryd was still being spelt this way. When was the letter 'e' added to the end?

Jul 14 A poem is found on page 2 "The Aged's Friend" by J.G. Birmingham (This referred to Provost Merson)

Jul 21 Advert – When at Rathven Market be sure to visit the dancing platform open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. God music, the correct way to keep fit. Peter F.Cormack, Cert. R.I.D.A. Edinburgh.

Look out for Currie's Shooting Stall at Rathven Market – first street on left.

The death took place this week of Walter Wilson late of Arradoul House and the Inchgowan Distillery. He died in the south of England.

Been better spent on the aul hairber - A visitor criticised the money being spent on Coronation Den and Strathlene and suggested that it would have been better to have spent money on providing facilities at Buckpool Harbour which was much more central

July 28 **Peter Fair** - Given a dry warm day many people from Buckie and a wide area around once again flocked to Peter Fair. There were a few horses forward for sale but nothing like the numbers of earlier years. It is many years past since hiring of harvest hands took place this all being done through the labour exchange or bureau in Buckie. Buses, private and hired cars carried people to and from the fair with far fewer bikes than on former years. The buses ran from Cluny Square and at times so much people and traffic congregated there that it required the police to keep order. The day was observed almost universally as a holiday. Money was seen to be spent lavishly on the great variety of amusement. There was no boxing booth but Peter Cormack's dancing board was well patronised.

Aug 4 **The Baptist Church held their annual picnic** at the picnic stance at Drybridge.

The death took place of Oglivie Dawson, Builder, Shanks Lane

Buckie Thistle have re-signed the following players for the new season -

Keeper - Wood

Backs - James and John Bowie,

Half backs - Middleton, Logie, F.Smith, W.Laing,

Forwards - P.Bain, J.Smith, Calder, Cormack, Duncan

In addition the following have been signed - W. Ross (Lhanbryd) who played for Mosstodloch; Tom Bruce, Findochty (both as backs) P.Glass, Fochabers and A.Imlach, Portgordon (halfbacks)

The following have offered to play if required - Wilson and Smith, Rovers and P.Murray and J.Hillocks,Portgordon.

A poem is to be found on page 7 "The Browster's Wife" ** Stoneywood

Lightning claims a life - Alex Chalmers, 52, was killed by lighting in Newmill, Keith when busily clearing a choked drain during a heavy downpour. His son Jimmy Chalmers was grieve at Auchlunkart and was friendly with the family of Allan at the Bush Farm, Keith, where I spent much of my time

Tenders accepted for the new primary school on Cathcart Street, Buckie were as follows - Mason - A.Milne and Son; Joiner, A.Campbell and Son; Painter, Ralph Smith, Findochty; Plasterer, J.Scott and Son, Aberdeen. The school is to cost £14,000. The school wasn't completed until 1945/46 and as an apprentice plasterer with G. Packman, spent a fair time there doing odds and ends. The other contractors returned to pick up where they had left off.

Aug 11 **M.J.Wilson, Licensed Grocer, Bank Street, signed the Trust Deed.**

Aug 18 **A Swimming Gala** under the auspices of the Amateur Swimming Club, took place at Strathlene.

Opening announcement - Wm. Forbes, later to be universally known as Bill Forbes the 'Lightning Barber' is to open a business at 7 Cluny Square as a Gents Hairdresser.

Two new football teams joined the Highland League - Rothes Victoria and Deveron Vale . Later Rothes was to drop the Victoria while Deveron Vale was to become all one word

They started well - Buckie Thistle beat the Clach 5-1 in the first game of the new season. The Thistle team was - Wood W.Ross and T.Bruce; Middleton, Logie and W.Laing; J.Smith, P.Bain, Calder, G.K.Cormack and D.Duncan.

A poem is found on page 2 "The Surroundings O' Buckie " J.G..B.'Ham

A trial match took place to pick a Thistle team to play in the Aberdeenshire League. Team A - French, Ross and Bruce; Middleton, Logie and Imlach; J.Smith, Coull(Brora), Grant(Cullen), Cormack and J.Coull.

Team B - Thomson, F.Smith and John Legge; Findlay(Cullen), P.Glass, and W.Hay; E.Smith; Johnston, Wilson, Hillocks and W.Legge.

Aug 25 **Jist got a caul dook** - Crawford 'Fordie' Lawson fell into the harbour on his bike but fortunately was rescued safely.

Sept 1 **Opening announcement** - James Strachan, Butcher, Portgordon, successor to Wm. Robertson, March Street.

Poem is found on page 2 column 3 "Our Thanks" by J.G. Birmingham.

Sept 8 **Wm. Cowie 'Postie' of Muir of Clochan received the Imperial Service Medal** from the General Post Office for Meritorious Service.

Is anything new under the sun? a letter was received by the B.A. by someone who was complaining about bad language at Victoria Park. A similar complaint was heard many years before. While mention was even made of this in a Canadian paper.

Gordon Castle Mystery Chest - Among the items sold at the huge dispenish sale that took place at Gordon Castle, Fochabers was a Mystery Chest . The new owners, being antique dealers from Perth, aim to prolong the secret of the chest . The chest was found in the River Spey near to Cumberland's Ford after the Hanoverians had crossed the river on their way to Culloden in the Spring of 1746. Since that time the chest has not been opened and when tilted on its side the rumble of something being moved is heard. The key is broken while the lock is of an intricate pattern. The chest is of wrought iron and on the sides are little painted panels in Dutch style. If the purchasers wish to retain interest they must keep the chest closed. Like the Loch Ness monster its capture would be depreciated.

Sept 15 **Jist onything to turn a broon penny** - In order to try to raise much needed capital the Thistle had engaged Thomson's amusements and were also to hold a Carnival Dance.

A job for oor Stan - Stanley Bruce of 7 Great Western Road was appointed apprentice Burgh Surveyor.

A win for Buckie ower the Blue Mogganers - In the Scottish Qualifying Cup Buckie beat Peterhead by four goals to two with three goals disallowed
The team was - Anderson, Ross and John Bowie; Middleton, Logie and Laing; E.Smith, Bain, Calder, Dr G.D.Mckenzie and Duncan.

Webster's Garage were advertising - Hillman 14 a real five seater at a cost of £239

Yi shid hear fowk on the streets - A letter was received by the B.A. stating that bad language was more prevalent on the streets of Buckie than at football matches.

It was proposed to erect a maternity hospital to serve Moray, Banff and Nairn. Buckie was seen to be the optimum place - most central. (A maternity annex was built at Seafield Hospital but not until the late 1940's. As an apprentice plasterer I worked there for George Packman along with journeyman Sandy 'Mac' McPherson and labourer Jonathan Bremner).

Sept 22 **Why not spend a penny and take an interest?** Buckie Thistle Football Club Ltd were inviting subscribers to take an interest in the club by pledging money. The first list of names was printed on the first page.

Millbank Garage on High Street was advertising a new Vauxhall 25 hp at £315.

A massive landslide took place above the road leading from Keith to Fochabers at the Dramlachs. Traffic was being diverted via the Swiss cottage (Reed Hoosie) and the Enzie Braes.

A strange leaf eating bee was discovered among roses in a local garden.

Neville Chamberlain went to meet Hitler in an effort to avert a European war to arrive back with the infamous piece of paper which declared 'Peace In Our Time' which proved to be worthless.

Sept 29 **I'll tell your fortune for ten bob** - Madame Ambo Irvine a specialist in all forms of dancing was touting for clients at a fee of 10/- per lesson.

Portgordon mixed voice choir was much in demand.

Ach there's mair on on a Saturday - The coal businesses in Buckie gave notice that they were to take their half day on Saturday instead of Wednesday. The firms were - Aberdeen Lime Co.; Murray and Cowie; George McWilliam and Son; Alex Reid and Son; George Smith and Son.

Oct 6 **Fowk must hiv grown bigger** - The railway bridge spanning Harbour Street was to be demolished being too low.

Oct 13 **Enzie Amateur Dramatic Society** held a meeting with all the officials being re appointed. Producers - P.Urquhart and John H.Duncan secretary, Miss J.McCurrach.

The death took place of Partrick Gordon Shee, laird of Letterfourie at the age of 60. The first laird of Letterfourie was James who was to become Admiral of Scotland in 1513 during the reign of King James IV. He was the 4th son of George, the Earl of Huntly. George was married to Princess Jean, daughter of King James 1 of Scotland.

A poem is found on page 6 column 2 "My Window" or what an invalid sees and makes most of. By W.T.McGregor.

Oct 20 **More on Letterfourie** - In 1745 Alex Gordon, laird, was out with Charles Stewart 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' and following Culloden had to flee Scotland ending up with his brother on the isle of Madeira where he was engaged in the wine trade. He returned in 1778 when an amnesty was signed and later married the daughter of Russell of Montcoffer, near Banff, he died in April 1797 to be succeeded by his eldest son, James. Alex and his brother helped considerably to pay for the erection of the R.C. chapel at Preshome, St Gregory's. The foundation stone was laid in 1788 with Mr John Reid the priest in charge. Alex was also responsible for laying out the grounds around the house at Letterfourie which was rebuilt in 1783 to replace the former one which had been burned down. The architect for Letterfourie was one of the Adam family. A lot of stones from a major cairn at Currydoon a mile or so to west was used in its construction.

The B.A. carries an article on the late laird of Letterfourie on page 3 column 6

- Oct 26 **You want a good photograph come to me** - Ali Mohammed, Photographer, was advertising his services at the Studio, Portessie.
- Dons trial for Thistle player** - Willie Laing, left half of Buckie Thistle is to turn out for Aberdeen A in a match with Clyde A in Glasgow on Saturday.
- Let there be (more) light** - More lights had been erected on High Street causing the reporter of the day to state that Buckie is now well lit up.
- In the Coast Football League** Portgordon School beat Enzie Public School by the one goal in the game.
- The High School begin awffy weel** - In the new season Herd Cup League Buckie High School beat Gordon Schools Huntly by ten goals to one.
The team was - J.Clark, D.Flett and Jas Cowie; J.Slater, A.Imlach and K.Imlach; P.Reid, Jos. Garden, Ian Ross, N.Innes and J.Farquhar.
- Buckie Thistle were beaten in the 4th round of the Qualifying Cup** by four goals to one. Missing from this game was Dr McKenzie who had played in the earlier rounds.
- Nov 10 **Jist along the street a wee bit** -John Burgess, Hairdresser, was advising that he was move his business from 23 East Church Street to 27 East Church Street.
- Would you say this was a balanced alternative?** The going rate now for riding a bike without lights has increased to 7/6 or five days in prison.
- Poem on page 2 column 2 "Memories of Home"** by D.M. "Burnmouth" Vancouver. He was looking back then from 50 years before.
- Armistice Day** - The columnist *Observer* had a few words to say regarding the proposal made by members of the Town Council that the Armistice Services should be stopped.
Other columns had been written during 1938 by '*The Stroller*', '*Critic*' and '*Wilderness*'.
- The first for a long time** - E.Tindall Scott & Co. had an illustrated advert in the B.A. for the first time for a long time. This showed a superheat combination grate. They were still putting the same type in some houses, especially in rural areas in 1952
- Webster's Garage was advertising the new 'Flying Standard 'Eight'** which was reputed to do from 45 - 48 miles per gallon and sold at a cost of £125.
- Nov 24 **Opening announcement or Extending their ware** - The Co-op at 38 East Church Street was advertising that they now intended to sell Drapery, Boots and Shoes and Hardware.
- Dec 1 **A fire engine or just tenders** - The members of the T.C. were not all of the same opinion regarding the purchase of a fire engine for Buckie or tenders. Councillor McDonald, in favour of a fire engine warned of being cheese-paring describing how this had led to a disaster in the construction of the Victoria Bridge back in 1901.
- ***** **The Victoria Bridge collapse - an explanation** - The T.C. at this time had decided to dispense with the services of a qualified engineer and had decided to only spend £1,500 on the construction leaving the building firm to do all that was necessary. The end result was that the bridge, being done on the cheap, fell down. The services of a railway engineer were sought and in the end the cost of the whole operation cost £4.500. There was more the surface of the bridge in relation to the level of the streets on either side was far too low and it took 200 cart loads to bring it up to something like reasonable. **This can be read in more detail on page 3 columns 5 and 6.**

It wasn't the best of years - The drifters were almost all back from Yarmouth. Gross earnings amounted to between £300-£800 with an average of £550. Some of the boats barely covered their expenses.

Going further afield for work - George Packman, Plasterer, Buckie, won a contract for houses in Banff.

Rathven or Portessie - The powers that be decided to call the new school in Portessie - Rathven Public School despite the protests of many people in Portessie. This had to be later changed as opposition towards the name grew.

Dec 8 **Opening announcement** - J.Masson was advertising that he was to open a shop at 25 West Church Street as a tobacconist, selling also Christmas Cards toys and sweets.

A person was fined 7/6 for riding a bicycle on the pavement. (What a difference it would make if we had the same courts in 2005 with the same relevant fines being imposed.)

A new team made application to join the Welfare League under Mr Stephen. This was to be known as **the Hotspurs**.

G. A. Craig, now president - At the A.G.M. of the Welfare League, A.Lawson did not seek re-election as president. This office was taken by G.A.Craig, Portgordon. The position of vice president was vacant while J.Murray was appointed secretary and J.A. Callaghan, treasurer.

Life Member - The decision was taken that in the Welfare League anyone who served for five years as an official of any club should become a life member.

Wedding gift for Norman - It was noted that Norman Taylor who had a long association with all levels of football in the Buckie area, including the Welfare League, was made the recipient of a gift from his colleagues in the G.P.O. to mark his forthcoming marriage.

The best of beef - Laing, Butcher, East Church Street, Buckie, bought the champion animal at the Inch Christmas Show.

Dec 22 **A poem by W.T.McGregor is to be found on page 3 column 3** called - "Mother and Child"

The columnist 'Critic' concentrated on snippets of sporting interest.

Dec 29 **The editorial summing up of the year 1938 contained the following -**
 During the year the Empire Exhibition took place in Glasgow.
 Germany under the influence of Adolf Hitler swallowed up the country of Austria and had also designs on Czechoslovakia.
 The British Navy was mobilised.
 Neville Chamberlain made several missions of peace to Germany.
 The Spanish Civil War was still raging with both Italy and Germany playing significant parts.
 Japan made an unprovoked attack on China.
 At home the shipyard of Herd and McKenzie launched 6 boats, five fishing boats and one yacht.
 During the year the fishing had been poor with that at Yarmouth especially so with many boats ever more deeper in debt.
 Cargo trade at Cluny Harbour had been brisk with coal boats calling on a regular basis. There were several grain boats, while the exports of timber continue to increase.
 During the year a total of 22 council houses were occupied in Freuchny, 12 in Buckpool and 20 in Craigbo with 14 still under construction. One private house was built on Wilson's Land - Grant - Eden.
 The primary school on West Cathcart Street is in the course of construction and also the reconstruction of the Lady Cathcart School.

An extension was added to Strathlene House.

Two shelters combined with conveniences were built at Seaview Road and on Main Street.

Three billiard rooms were built and a private garage at Bayview, East Church Street.

The B.A. carried a list of the programmes one could listen to on the wireless – National, Scottish, West of England, Northern, Regional, Midland, Welsh and Northern Ireland.