

1952

Jan 3 Nothing there was nothing worth noting

Jan 10 **Drift away - The** drift away of labour from the north east was seen to be of concern, a point made by the Scottish Secretary of State at a meeting in Aberdeen at the weekend.

Odd fish - An 8-foot tunny fish was washed up on to the rocks near the Coastguard station in the Yardie this week. The fish, which weighed 5 cwts, is something of a stranger in the North Sea but found in great quantities in the Mediterranean. It was carried off to be used for pig food.

Rathven statistics - The statistics showed a decrease in births and an increase in deaths in 1952 as opposed to 1951,

1950 Deaths = 104 85% of all deaths were people aged over 60, with 4 being octogenarians.

1951 Deaths = 119

1950 Births = 263

1951 Births = 256

1950 Marriages in Registrars = 4

1951 Marriages in Registrars = 8 This is the highest yet recorded.

Buckie 'Top Ten' - In a competition being run by the 'Weekly News' the following ten girls were chosen at a dance held by Buckie Thistle in the Fishermen's Hall on Monday night.

Eleanor Cowie, 19, Ina Ferguson, 17, Margo Flett, 18, Mary Stewart, 23, Barbara Murray, 18, Ruby Reid, 16, Rosalind Hendry, 18, Edna Bruce, 18, Elspeth Slater, 17, Helen Murray, 19.

Jan 17 **Poem** - A poem, titled 'Pride of the Parable of the Little Grey Hen' is found on page 9. Written by Maggie Jane Minty, Roseheartly

Football team photograph - Buckie Wanderers F.C. - 1934 - R. Coull, J. Hay, E. Sandison, I. H. Sutherland, J. A. Cowie, J. Murray, J. Marshall, J. Coull, A. Stewart, Wm. Hay, A. Stephen, A. Smith and J. Cowper.

Enzie book of poems - Mr C. Paterson, Clochan has collected a number of his favourite poems written about the Clochan district and had them published by Arthur H. Stockwell Ltd in a booklet, which sells at a price of 1/-.

'Our Village' and 'My Old Home' are probably two of the best poems in this slim volume (reporter's comment) He also says that Paterson makes a sincere attempt to write a verse or two of his own.

Jan 24 **The Auchmore BCK 93** - The Buckie boat, Auchmore hit a rock and sunk in Loch Errobil on the north west of Scotland when sheltering from gale-force winds. In February she was re-floated and towed back to Buckie. During the tow the ropes parted on three occasions between the Pentland Firth and Dunbeath Bay. The skipper involved, a local man, was commended for a grand salvage feat.

Shelter for fans - It was believed that a start would soon be made to construct a 100-foot long shelter for supporters on the south side of Victoria Park. The sum of £300 had already been raised to pay for the work.

Jan 31 **Burns' Suppers** - In 1952 these were as popular as ever as shown by the reports given on page 5. Mr W. Dickie, Rector of Buckie High School gave the 'Immortal Memory'; at the supper in the Town House, being ran by Buckie Eastern Star. Mr J. S. Gorie, Fochabers, did likewise at the Portgordon WRI Burns Supper held in the St Andrews Hall, Buckie.

Buckie Labour Party held their function in the Commercial Hall where the 'Immortal Memory' was delivered by Councillor A. S. Flett, Labour Candidate for Banffshire, while Arradoul WRI had as their major speaker, Rev D. Campbell, Findochty.

Feb 7 **Death of King George VI.** This was the front-page news.

For sale – Rathburn House was for sale. This was formerly the home of the late Mr James Archibald, Solicitor and former provost of Buckie and Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire. After the war the house became a temperance hotel.

Bellie Kirk - A report on page 10 is on about an appeal to help save the Bellie Kirk. Included, also, is a short part on the history of the Kirk, the union and problems.

Photograph of Ianstown Rovers - This shows a team of the 1900/01 era. – J. Slater, G.W. Fraser, J. Smith, J. Flett, Wm. McIntosh, G. Marshall, A. Wood, J. Smith, A. Smith, J. Sutherland, J. Imlach, J. McIntosh, Wm. Imlach.

Feb 14 Found little of interest to note

Feb 21 **Buckie Welcome Home Fund** - Mr A. Gerry, treasurer, reported that the fund stood at £7,733. It had been agreed to set aside the sum of £1,000 for the provision of bronze plaques to be fixed on the War Memorial showing the names of the Fallen of both wars.

The Gordons Return - A report is given on page five, which speaks of the Gordons returning to Gordon Castle. The castle had been bought off the Crown Estate Trustees by Colonel George Charles Gordon-Lennox DSO, Grenadier Guards and cousin of the present Duke of Richmond and Gordon. Bought along with the castle itself, were the castle park, policies and the home farm, in total amounting to 500 acres. In addition the new laird would own the rod fishing on the River Spey from the Fochabers bridge downstream to the Cumberland Ford and on lease upstream from the bridge to Boat O' Brig.

Feb 28 **Soldier wounded in Korea** - Word has been received that 20 year-old Buckie National Serviceman, 22474698, Pte Wm. Smith 1st BT. KOSB received multiple wounds during the fighting in Korea and is now in hospital in Japan. His parents, Mr and Mrs Wm. Smith, Firth View, Oglivie Street, Portessie, received the news by telegram on Sunday saying how their son was wounded on February 23. His injuries are due to shrapnel wounds but he is now in a satisfactory condition in hospital. Pte Smith was formerly employed by Messrs Douglas and Sons, Builders, Portessie and has been in Korea since December.

Advertisers - D. Watt, Electrical and Radio Engineer 40D, Commercial Road.
Henderson's House Furnishers, Elgin.
Cluny House Hotel, High Street. Breakfast, Lunches and High Teas. Stephen prop.
Charles Robertson, Cycle and Radio Engineer, 14 East Church Street.
Thomas W. Lang, Ophthalmic and Dispensing Optician, 29 West Church Street.
Kings Café, Fish and Chips, Teas, Coffee and Hot Drinks, 17 West Church Street.
Alex Reid and Son, Coal Merchant, Commercial Road.
Macrae Bros. 119 High Street, Elgin, Best Canary seed.
Emslies Travel Agency, 16 South Street, Elgin.
Moray Firth Furniture (Robertsons) – High Street and West Church Street.
Scottish Dance Records – Shand, Cameron, McLeod and Forsyth, Smith's Radio Service, 10 Cluny Square.
Webster's Garage, Esso Service, 55 West Church Street.
James Mackay – 'Hats For Spring' 5 East Church Street.
Benzie and Miller Ltd, Elgin – Sewing Week – Skirts etc.
Ritchie, 72 East Church Street – 'This week's bargains'.
Alex Esson, Cluny Square – Outfitter – Ladies and Gents.
Modern Photography – The Studio Portessie.
George Watson, 10 Richmond terrace, Portgordon, 24 hour taxi service.
Hepworths 13A/17 East Church Street. A New Look on Tailoring.

Farquhar, 3 Hill Street, Portknockie, Saloon Cars for hire.
 Central Soda Fountain, C s F ices are the creamiest, Hot Drinks, Fish Restaurant.
 W.F. Johnston, West Church Street, lending Library.
 Sutherland's Furnishing Store, High Street.
 George Robertson, Draper etc, Cullen
 Christies, Fochabers, Floral Art.
 George A. Smith, Music Seller and Sports Outfitter, 16 Batchen Street, Elgin.
 James Robertson, Holburn Granite Works, Aberdeen.
 A. Hendry and Sons, Land Street, Funeral Undertakers.
 Ice Company, McLaren Brae, Cement Blocks, various sizes.
 Cluny Cleaners, High Street.
 George Sutherland, 21 West Church Street, 'Skyline by Clarks'
 Butlins Holiday Camps,
 The Ladies Shop, 39 West Church Street. Quilts recovered - Prices -

In rayon taffeta -	6x5	£5.06	
In satin	-	6x5	£5.16.09
In crepe marocain -	6x5	£5.16.09	
Bedspreads to match -	70x90		
In tafetta		£2.07.06	
In satin		£3.14.08	
In marocian		£3.14.08	

All orders ready in 14 days.

Mar 6 **Politics** - The front-page news was concerned with the setting up of separate boards to be established in Scotland for coal, electricity and railways. Devolution at last!

Fochabers MIA - A report on the front page spoke of the membership reaching its highest level yet. Fochabers MIA was founded in 1879. (In 2001 Fochabers MIA was still active and had to be one of the very few in Scotland.)

Mar 13 **Buckie Town Council** - The council were said to be worried about the unsightly parts of the town, and were talking about how these might be tidied up. (Through the 1990's, before and later, this was one of the things discussed by Buckie Community Council on a number of occasions.)

Mar 20 **"Gillies the coal-man retires"** - This was a headline in this edition. I referred to a man who had retired after delivering coal with a horse-drawn wagon in the streets of Buckie, Ianstown, Portessie and Findochty for fifty years. James Gillies, 12 Station Road, Portessie, at the age of 76, retired last week after serving with the same Buckie firm - George McWilliam and Sons for 43 years except for a short break during the First World War. Prior to becoming a coalman he worked on a number of local farms. His first wage as a coalman was 22/- per week when the best quality coal cost 1/- per cwt, with second grade 10d. He had two escapades with his horse during his long period of service. On one occasion the horse slipped on the greasy road near Findochty and as he was attempting to help the animal to rise it slipped a second time to come down on top of him. The injuries sustained saw him spend 11 weeks in hospital. Another time something scared the horse as it was passing close to the sea whereupon it bolted down the beach before depositing its master in the water. One favourite horse, Jimmy, kept him company on his rounds for 10 years.

Mar 27 **Apathy in local affairs** - This was the headline in the front page of this edition. It continued by saying that interest in local affairs were at their lowest ebb ever, with no poll-taking place in any place along the coast from Buckie to Macduff.

Electrician survives fall -, Mr Alexander Moar, 24 year old Buckie electrician fell 25 feet from a pole in the Seatown of Cullen this week. It is believed that his safety belt slipped. He landed first on a house roof before falling from there to the ground. Though suffering considerable injuries in the fall he is said to be in a satisfactory condition in Seafield Hospital.

Move for matron - Miss Margaret Ross, Matron at Clydeville Children's Home since it opened, is to move to Rhives House, Golspie, as matron, in the near future.

Apr 3 **Photograph**- This shows George and Wilson Cranna, the Smiddy, Rathven, making their ground ready for a crop. The caption explains how technology hasn't completely taken over. One of the men is seen spreading manure by hand from a 'hopper' while the other has a horse pulling a set of harrows.

Apr 10 **Photograph of Provost Dr Hendry**- He had just announced his resignation from the town council after 27 year's service.

Advertisers - H. Reid, 143 Main Street - Painting and Decorating
 Cole - Hairdressers, Cluny Square.
 James Russell, Ironmongers, 57 South Street, Elgin - Aga fires.
 Strangs and Soccer - Football Pools

Apr 17 **Five boats to try the Norwegian water** - This was the front-page news.

Photograph - This shows John Longmore, Burnside Cottage, Buckpool, at 26 the youngest chef in the Cunard Line. His speciality is confectionery work, which he produces to a high standard.

Ministry of Food poster - 'How to get your new Ration Book'.

News - It was announced that Britain had signed the first military alliance with Germany since the Napoleonic wars

Special Recruitment Scheme - The Special Recruitment Scheme for Teachers, which began on August 1951 as a means of increasing the number of teachers in schools, is seen as being a success. This scheme carried on through the 1960's and into the 1970's, if not longer, with yours truly being one of those who were accepted for training.

Poem - The poem 'Sunset and Twilight', written by Mairi E. Calder, Tomleah, Farnachty, is found on the last page of this edition.

Advert - Square dancing frocks from The Little Wonder.

Apr 24 **New provost** - Bailie Dr Peter Reid was elected provost of the reconstituted Buckie Town Council on Friday by a margin of 8 votes to two over Councillor John Milton. Before retiring ex Provost Dr Hendry said how council work was often a thankless task nevertheless he had always found it entrancing.

Wedding report - A report on the wedding of Lachie Lobban and Jess Ann Cowie is given on page five column 3.

May 1 **Photograph** - Staff of the Inland Revenue in their new quarters on High Street.

Jones's Manager retires - Mr. W. F. Samuel, a native of Larbert, Fife came to Buckie in 1906 when Jones bought a sawmill and engineering business on Commercial Road. When he became manager. He remained as such until the firm opened the present shipyard and engineering works built on the sea front at

Ianstown. In 1914. That part of the business was converted into a limited company Jones Buckie Slip and Shipyard Ltd. He moved on to become manager of wood side in the north of Scotland. He was a great bowler and keen and successful gardener.

He was also quite an accomplished poet – his favourite poem being 'The Moose'.

Wee, cunnin' sleekit elfish moose,
Deil tak the chiel what let ye loose,
Ye've ta'en possession o' my hoose,
Ye little brat.
Ere, lang ye winna craw sae croose,
I'll see tae that.

At nichts when humans are asleep,
Ye saunter oot tae hae a peep,
Ye always look afore ye leap,
Ye artfu' pest
Ye never sow but oftimes reap,
The best.

O' mony restless nichts I spend,
Planning hoo best yer days tae end,
I often wish yer ways ye'd mend,
Or dae a flit,
Yer wiles I fail tae comprehend,
The least wee bit.

I hear ye noo'mong laths and plaster,
Yer wee bit legs gae fast and faster,
Ye little dream o' the disaster
That's loomin' near,
I'll let ye know I am the master
So lend an ear.

Yer greed's a thing that I deplore,
Nippers are baited by the score,
Ye nab the cheese – come back for more
Wi' eagerness,
Noo, I'm thirstin' for yer gore,
I do confess.

So, 'Imp of Satan' fare ye weel,
Yer end is near, ye needna squeal,
I've got a cat, he is nae feel, He'll do the trick
He'll hand ye tae yer freend, the deil,
In half a tick.

May 8 **Wedding photograph** – My sister Mary and husband Dougal Burnett, seen cutting the cake after their wedding at Strathlene House Hotel in April 1952.

May 15 **Enzie loon in the money - A** story is told on the front page of how a native of the Enzie, Alexander Simpson, had made a fortune from making shaving brushes and had recently won a big contract to provide brushes for an American firm. He started in business shortly after the First World War with his gratuity and savings amounting to £150. He used the skills he had learnt while working in a chemist's shop in London in order to sell his goods. He often comes on holiday to Keith to visit a cousin, John Simpson, Draper, Mid Street, a son of the late Mr and Mrs John Simpson who had a business on Low Street.

May 22 **Findochty loons lucky escape** - Three Findochty boys, intent on looking for gull's eggs on the rocks between Findochty and Portknockie, had a narrow escape from drowning when they fell into the water. One of the boys, though injured, did well to climb the rocks and find someone to rescue the other two. The boys

included two brothers – Duthie Anderson, aged 12, his brother Noel, 10, with a friend John Murray also 10.

May 29 1952 – **'Outlook of Fishing Industry Serious'** This was the front-page main headline. 'Overfishing was mentioned even at this time. (In March 2001, close on fifty years later, the fishing industry was facing something of a crisis with some species all but disappeared from the North Sea and boats tied up to wait a Government decision)

Advert - C. McIntosh 'Charlie Mac', 8 Findlater Street, Portessie. Saloon cars for hire.

Ultra Radio Receivers – various makes – Webster's Garage.

Ye manna loiter here - Five men were charged and fine 5/- each with the option of five days in jail for loitering at the 'Sailors' Home' corner – described as a 'scratching post' by town councillors. A complaint came from those working in the offices in the building who complained to the police that the people in question were sitting on the window sills and using the most profane of language.

Football - Two new teams entered for the Juvenile Football Association competition. They were the Caledonian Rovers and H & M Rangers. Other teams in the league are – Portgordon Rangers, Findochty, Spurs, Arradoul and Buckie United.

Advert - Leys & Duncan – Radio and Electrical engineers, 7 Low Street, Banff. Sandy Duncan, came from the Home Farm, Fochabers and was married to Joey Young a daughter of Mr. And Mrs. R.G. Young, Arradoul Mains.

Advert - J. Allan, Huntly – Piano and Organ Tuning.

June 5 **in praise of the 'Doul'**- A letter was found in this edition with lots of praise for the Welfare team, Arradoul. It was signed 'Up the Doul'

Jupp's Sale - For a great many years a mammoth two-day sale has taken place at the Aberlour Orphanage with people travelling from Banffshire, Morayshire and Aberdeenshire to attend. The sum of £1000 was raised for funds.

June 12 **Buckie pupil wins top Bursary prize.** Frank Fowler, who was this year's Dux of Buckie High School won one of the top Bursary prizes in the Aberdeen University Bursary Competition. His father is the manager of the Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank.

June 19 **Welcome Home Fund -** The long running saga of the Welcome Home Fund was coming to an end, a report said.

Freedom of the Burgh - Former Provost W J. Merson is to be made the first honorary burgess of the burgh for services to the town.

Opening announcement - Wm. Geddes, 2 William Street is to start up a car hiring business.

Poem - 'Dreams O' An Enzie Loon'. Written by Rita Symon, is found on page 5.

Jun. 26 **Launch of a minesweeper -** The first of a new order of minesweepers was launched this week from the shipyard of Herd & McKenzie by Mrs Martha Herd. HMIM No 15 is the first of its class to be launched in Scotland where there are 29 in course of construction. The new boat measures 106 feet 15" in length and in breadth – 20'6".

New Matron - The new matron appointed to Clydeville Children's Home is Miss Margaret L. Crawford, Perth.

Manse baby - The first ever baby to be born at the manse at the 'Cock-Hat kirk' was christened this week by her grandfather. Her name is Alison Clare Chisholm.

New minister - Rev Henry A. Kennedy was appointed minister of Buckie West Church. He comes to Buckie from Montrose and is a graduate of Edinburgh.

Seaweed on the sands - The Banffshire Advertiser received a letter from a visitor to the town who complained about the mess of seaweed on the sands at Strathlene.

Football - Alex 'Bomber' Thomson, former Thistle player was appointed trainer of Elgin City.

Buckie Rovers won the Welfare League and also the County Cup. Portsoy won the League Cup for the third year running. Islavale won the St Valery Trophy.

Jly 3 **First Honorary Burgess** - The front page gave prominence to the installation as first Honorary Burgess of ex Provost W. J. Merson, for service to the burgh.

Good picture, pity about reproduction- the picture was taken looking across the Victoria Bridge towards Queen Street. There is only the one building on Queen Street - the former South Church manse, while there are no trees on either side of the bridge.

New doctor - James A. Barrie, Aingarth, St Peter's Road, Buckie was recently awarded his PhD in Chemical Research.

School production - Senior pupils of Buckie High School put on a performance of HMS Pinafore.

Former Thistle player 50 years wed - The Banffshire Advertiser received word that Wm. 'Bill' Landles and his wife had recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. A native of Glasgow he first played for Buckie Thistle in 1898 and was selected for North side to meet Glasgow Rangers at Elgin in 1901 where he scored the North's only goal.

Local Duxes - Veronica Baird was Primary Dux of St Peter's R.C. School. Jean Smith was Dux of Lady Cathcart School.

Jly 10 **Second minesweeper launched** - The second minesweeper to be built in Buckie was launched from the shipyard of Messrs Jones Ltd by Mrs J. C. Bruce Jones.

Long serving teacher retires - Miss Isabella 'Beldie' Paterson, The Core farm, Portgordon, a teacher in the Primary Department of Enzie Junior Secondary School for 36 years was honoured by staff, pupils, parents and friends on her retirement. She was presented with a silver brooch set with amethysts and Cairngorms on behalf of staff, former staff and pupils by senior pupil, Jamesina Philip. Previous to the presentation Mr W. F. Johnston, Headmaster, spoke of Miss Paterson's long and dedicated service to the school and wished her a long and happy retirement. Father Robertson, Preshome, added his own comments before presenting her with a walnut chiming clock and armchair on behalf of parents and friends.

Miss Paterson had had a 52 year association with the school, first as a pupil, then a pupil teacher and finally teacher.

Jly 17 **Poem** - 'The Broadley Smiddy', written by Rita Symon, is found on page 4.

Local bus service - Buckie Town Council are keen to see a local bus service started in the town but the bus company that would be involved are not too enthusiastic.

Photograph - A photograph taken of Miss Paterson, former teacher at Clochan School, receiving a gift from pupil, Jamesina Philip, is shown on page 9. She taught in the school for 36 years.

Jly 24 **Glasgow Fair** - There was a big crowd of visitors in the town with it being the Glasgow Fair holiday fortnight. One complaint heard was that there was very little entertainment. The writer of the report said why they should come to our area remains a mystery.

Buckie Gala Week - The Gala Week staged to raise funds for the lifeboat proved to be a big success. Among the events were floats and fancy dress parades. Though there were only five floats the work put into decking them out was of a high quality. The RAF played a major part in the success of the event.

Jly 31 **Welcome Home Fund meeting**- A meeting took place between the members of the town council and that of the Welcome Home Fund. A lot of admin work had to be carried out but they were now at the stage of writing out the cheque, said Mr Gerry, treasurer. The sum collected was £7412, with £1000 from this being subtracted to pay for the panels with names of the Fallen on the war Memorial. A report is given on page 4.

Poem - 'The Pessimist or Comme Vous Voulez'- This is found on page 6, written by Mairi E. Calder.

Report - Continual decline in the rural population.

Photograph - Found on page 7 Veterans versus Juveniles. The old stagers won by three goals to two.

Peter Fair - No pictures - the only mention of the Fair was given by a visitor who had been asked to write a small piece, giving his views. He gave the impression that he wouldn't hurry back.

Aug 7 **Report** - The streets were strangely quiet with the end of Glasgow Fair. The merriment and gay holiday spirit of our southern friends is missed, was said.

On Saturday morning within the space of 40 minutes three trainloads had departed from the Buckie station for Glasgow. The 8.40 a.m. a double-headed special, packed with returning visitors led the way closely followed by the trains from Elgin at 8.58 and 9.28. All told 600 visitors left bound direct for Glasgow.

Visitors' comments - These were collected by the B.A.'s roving reporter - They like the golf course at Stathlene and Buckpool, and the bowling greens, but asked why the only tennis courts were at Strathlene. Young and old like the surroundings of the Victoria Bridge but this was spoiled by the smell from the burn.

Some suggestions made were for better walks along the course of the Buckie Burn to the sea to enhance the attractions of the town. There was a need for improved sign-posting pointing toward places of interest.

One and all were impressed by the cheerfulness and civility received from shopkeepers and assistants.

Photograph of Caledonian Rovers - D. Mclean, R. Marshall, G. Smith, J. Lawson, J. Smith, G. Mair,

A. Millar, H. Coull (manager), J. Murray, G. Stewart, H. Taylor, E. Lyon, Wm. Smith.

Aug 14 **Speed cyclists** - A speed cycling record which stood for 45 years was broken this week. In 1898 David Reid set the speed record from Buckie to Lhanbryd, a distance of 26 and $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, at 1 hour and 12 minutes. Last weekend, 17 year old Wm. Geddes, formerly of 14 High Street East, Portgordon, now living in Glasgow, clipped 2 minutes 27 seconds off the record, doing the distance in 1 hour 9 minutes. In 1898 David Reid was presented with a cup for the feat in 1898, by a gentleman then living in the Commercial Hotel. He was pleased to hand it over to the new record holder.

Mr Reid was asked about the difference in bikes in 1952 when compared to those of 1898. He said the bike that he had used was every bit as good. The roads today are better and remembered skidding on the 'Sweetie Mill Brae'

Aug 21 **Poem** – 'The Housewife's Grumble'. Written by Rita Symon, Broadley, Clochan, this is found on page 2

I'm coontin' up ma bawbees tae see far they hae gaen',
 I broke a poun' this morning an' nane ots tae be seen,
 Nae winner I'm girnin' an' feeling rale hertseek,
 For I dinna get ma pey till the end o' the week.
 Wi' the price o' a' thing, I canna well cop,
 I'm worrit an' scunnert an' ready to flop.
 Tak claes an' sheen, it's gaun ower the score,
 For its up an' up an' up they soar.
 W' rent an' licht an' coal an' sticks,
 It's enough tae drive fowk intae fits,
 The beef we buy tae bile an' stew,
 I' m dootfu' if its horse or coo,
 The frozen mutton gaes me a thocht,
 Fan cookit I wisht I'd never had bocht,
 It's mony years since it wis lambed,
 By looks for years it's been enbalmied.
 The quarter o' bacon is maistly fat,
 It frizzled tae naething, an awfu' saut.
 The egg, a wee thing, wis laid lang syne,
 On a bob's worth o' fish there's little tae dine.
 The ration o' sugar, the wee half-pun,
 Tae mak it last oot, is nae muckle fun.
 Twa ounces o' butter an' ane o' cheese,
 It's hardly enough tae spread on a piece.
 Wi' loaf an' milk an' meal an' tae
 Fit's left o' a poun, at the en' o' a day?
 As sure's am here it's a doon richt shame,
 There's sae little tae see an' fas tae blame?
 It's thae heid billies, sae blin an' dense,
 The price o' a' things clean sundered tae sense.
 It's gey high time they were taen in han'
 By the wifies o' the workin' man.
 It's time we wifies hid oor say,
 Sure we'd invent some ither way.
 Nae need for tins tae be imported,
 We'd see oor beef, wis nae exported.
 Oor country's foo o' barley, corn an' wheat,
 Weel stockit wi' coos, an' pigs an' sheep,
 Meal an' tatties, we shid hae galore,
 An' mair o' the fusky, we adore.
 Surley tae gweedness wi' sic variety,
 It wid ful the stamacks o' a' society,
 Then instead o's a bein' half dementit
 Wi' oor wimmies foo we'd be contentit

Aug 28 **Big fine** - The beaks came down hard on two loons caught stealing apples from gardens. Their parents were fined £1 each.. Those on the bench said that people who spent a lot of time and money on their gardens were entitled to believe that they should be left alone. One of the mothers said that their own garden had been damaged by boys.

Notice - A meeting is to take place in the Youth Centre on New Street to discuss the activities to take place next session beginning in October. All young people are cordially invited to attend.

Sept 4 **Early Harvest Home** - Edward Cranna , the blacksmith at Rathven has cut, stacked and threshed his whole harvest crop. This was completed by Saturday 30 August. The straw and grain were said to be of good quality.

Fish landings at Buckie - The only white fish arriving at Buckie during the month of August came from the local fishing boat Ebenezer which landed 5cwts on Saturday. Mostly of hake this made from 10 to 19/- per stone. Whiting made 4/3 per stone.

Sept 11 **No Television** - Buckie Town Council are to support Aberdeen Town Council in putting forward a strong protest against the lack of television services for the north of Scotland. The motion was raised by Provost Reid and seconded by Police Judge Buchan. He said that people in the north of Scotland were as much entitled to television reception as those in the south.

Sales by Warrant of the Sheriff - A sale was to take place at 40 D Commercial Road of Electrical Equipment, while second sale was that of furniture taken from the Springbank Hotel.

Buckie Welcome Home Fund - A list is given on page three of those who subscribed to the Welcome Home Fund and the amount of money which each gave.

To leave the Buckie Welfare League - Islavale, a team from Keith, who have been operating in the Buckie Welfare League have made application to join the Morayshire Junior Football Association.

Sept 18 Found little of interest to note

Sept 25 **No lights on bikes** - The going rate for cycling without lights appears to be 7/6 for one with 15/- for two.

Summer Football - Because of the number of games that had to be called off due to bad weather or ground conditions during the past winter a motion was put forward for the Welfare League to be played during the summer. This failed to find a seconder.

Welfare League Committee - John Davidson resigned from the post of secretary with D. Chisholm giving up the post of treasurer. George Innes, Arradoul , was appointed president , with Bobby Paterson, Buckpool Celtic as vice president. J. Farquhar took on the job of secretary with the position of treasurer left vacant.

Poem - A poem titled "The Holidaymakers' Lament", written by Sgt W. Cook, RAF Birmingham is found on page 8.

Oct 2 **Open for engagements** - The Burnside Accordion Band. Apply Thomson, Tynet Croft or McBride, Hawthorne Cottage, Clochan. (It is sad to know that both lads, friends of mine, should both have committed suicide at a relatively early age, one being found drowned in the Isla, near Keith and the other in the River Lossie at Elgin.)

Oct 9 **Off to Yarmouth** - The first big contingent of fish workers, about 100 women and girls, left by train from Buckie station on Monday afternoon for Yarmouth and Lowestoft where they hope to be busy gutting and packing during a short herring fishing season. They were joined by other workers at Aberdeen where a special train transported them direct to the East Anglian ports.

The first boats to leave - Among the first boats to leave Buckie for the fishing were the Sapphire Stone (one of the very few steam drifter) Fisher Laddie, Margaret Reid, Opportune, Sirius, and Olive etc. It was reckoned that about 49 boats from Buckie would go south to Yarmouth, the same as the previous year.

West coast fishing - There are still some herring drifters on the west coast. Among them being the - Amethyst, Unison, Shannon, and Countess. The motor drifter Corona sailed for the west coast on Monday

Photograph - On page 5 is a photograph of some of the women herring workers about to leave Buckie by train.

- Oct 16 **Two young friends killed** - Two 15-year-old Portknockie girls were killed on the road between Portknockie and Findochty, near Hillhead Cemetery on Friday evening. They were Helen Stables, 22 Church Street and Barbara Ann Pirie of 22 Pulteney Street who both received fatal injuries after being struck by a van. The girls were on their way to visit a relative in Findochty at the time of the accident. Helen worked in the Seafield Estates Office in Cullen while Barbara worked in a chemist shop in Buckie. The van driver was taken into custody.
- Oct 23 **Fine for having bike on pavement** - The parent of a 15 year old boy was fined 5/- after he had been caught riding his bicycle on the pavement in East Church Street.
- Oct 30 **Victim of a fire** - Twenty-seven year old Leslie Gillies, crofter, of Burnlevent Croft, Rathven was burnt to death in his home on Wednesday morning.

Teacher to emigrate - John Frazer, teacher of Physical Education at Buckie High School received a presentation at the school before leaving for Rhodesia.

Home For Old Folks - At a meeting of Banffshire health Authorities it was decided that an Old Folk's Home would be built on Elsley Place (sic) Buckie, starting in 1953. The home, which it was estimated will cost £21,500 to build with a further £3,000 for furnishings will be the first home to be built in the county to accommodate old men.

Spike - In his column in this edition Spike had included a poem supposedly written by Q. Coull, and titled 'The Spurdie'

The ither mornin' early
As seen as I gae'd oot,
I saw a spurdie merrily,
Chirpin' in the spoot.

I keeks up at the burdie,
A twinkle in ma ee,
Says I, "Come awa spurdie
An tell's jist fit's adee. "

Doon the spurdie flutter't
It wisna nae nane feart,
An on the grun it scutter't
An' up the stew it steer't.

In I gaed for a saftie,
An' tossed it doon a crumb,
But the spurdie hit wis crafty,
An' flew up on the lum.

Says I, " It's a' richt spurdie,
Come doon an' get yer denner,
It'll mak ye big an' sturdy,
Like the Buckie Thistle trainer.

Ye wi've thocht the craiter,
Kent ilka wird a' utter't,
Afore ye quid say, "Jeems Slater",
Doon again it flutter't.

Syne athoot hesitation,
The saftie crumb it pickit
An' cheepit wi' elation,
Say's I, Noo that's the ticket".

Bit ay, the peer wee spurdie,
Neist meenit it wid deid,
A vratch ca'd Jockie Wordie,
Shot it throwe the heid.

Bit weel, that's jist the wye o't,
A spurdie's life is brief,
Ma sister made a pie o't,
An' it tastit jist like beef.

Buckie Welfare F.A. Presentations - Buckie Rovers received the League Championship flag, the Commercial Shield and the County Cup. These were collected by R. Allan, Captain. Islavale (Captain Billy Frazer) accepted the St Valery Trophy while Portsoy received the League Cup.

Nov 6 **Death of Dr George Hendry ex provost** – The death took place this week of former provost of the town, Dr George Hendry MB ChB JP at his home Treryn, West Church Street, Buckie. He was 73. He and his wife had just returned from a six-week cruise in the Mediterranean though he had been unwell for some time. He was one of a family of five sons and three daughters of Mr Alex Hendry, Joiner, Rosebank, (now Simrole) Land Street, Buckie. He is a brother of John Hendry, head of the firm of Alex Hendry and Sons, Joiners, Land Street. He is survived by his wife and three sons. Dr Eric who is in practice in Buckie, Dr George who has just joined the Radio Therapy Department of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, the third son Arnold Hendry is a professor of engineering in Khartoum.

Fishing returns - Twenty-three boats came in to land their catch at Buckie harbour last week after fishing in the Smiths Bank area. All told 327 cwts of white fish were landed, mostly of cod, haddock and plaice to the value of £1009. The Danish seine-netter Ebba landed 2cwts for £14. On Monday and Tuesday of this week local boats landed 128 cwts of white fish, which made £379 while the Ebba landed 11 cwts for £58.

In the Playhouse - Showing this week is the film 'African Queen' starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn with Robert Morley.

Nov 13 **Buckie Juvenile Football Presentations** - The presentations took place during the interval at a dance in the Fishermen's Hall. Findochty Wanderers received 6 cups won by them in the Buckie and District Juvenile Football competitions during the past season. Their bag consisted of – The League Champions Cup; Inter Section Cup; Central Cup; Venice Trophy; President's Cup; Kings Café Challenge Cup. These were all handed over by Mr A. McQueen, Mr Ronald Scott, Mr James Smith, Mrs McKenzie, Findochty, Mr Norman Taylor and Mr E. Iannetta. Buckie Spurs, winners of the North of Scotland Juvenile Cup were handed their trophy by Mr J. Gill, Secretary. The Spurs also won the McQueen Challenge Cup, which was handed over by Mr John Farquhar. Arradoul Wanderers were R/Up in the and received a trophy from Mrs N. Taylor. Buckie United were R/Up in the Inter Section competition and received a trophy from Mr J. Gill. Music for the dance was provided by the Moray Melodymakers Dance Band, Elgin.

Cullen Town Hall - Cullen Town Council approved plans for the rebuilding of the Town Hall at an estimated cost of £12,000, this down in 1942, during World War II. Plans for the rebuilt hall include – on the ground floor, a billiard room, store and small hall capable of holding 80 people and a **civil defence information room**.

Upstairs - a hall measuring 62' x 30' capable of holding 300 people and the usual cloakrooms.

Certain changes were to take place to the entrance and staircase.

(The hall which came into possession of first Moray District Council and later Moray Council following the demise of the Town Council in 1974 was in danger of being closed in 2001, because of the cost of its upkeep, running at £12,000 per year, unless the local community came up with a suitable plan for running the hall under a local management team. At a public meeting, held within the hall in March 2001 the Moray Council proposal found no support, the general feeling being that Moray Council had a duty to see that the hall was kept open. This decision was taken back to Moray Council by the officials who were present at the meeting.)

Nov 20 **Football - Buckie Thistle won the Qualifying Cup for the first time** in their history after defeating Inverness Clachnacuddin by an aggregate score of four goals to three. The reporter of the day described the victory as 'Buckie Greatest Football Triumph'.

The team was - Rennie, Tough and Dutch; Thain, Valentine and Jeffrey; Morrice, Milne, McIntyre, Hendry and Stewart.

Opening announcement - George Clark, Butcher, is to open a shop at 33 High Street. (across the road from the Commercial Hotel)

Nov 27 **Fishing** - What was described as 'The Great Yarmouth Gamble' failed with the last Buckie boats returning home this week. It was a complete tale of woe. Storm damage, resulting in loss of nets and unprecedented scarcity of herring made this one of the shortest East Anglian seasons on record. This normally lasts until December and not for 20 years have the boats come home so early. Average figures per boat were in the region of £1000 but some boats made as low as £400, a figure that was common for one week's earning in a good season at Yarmouth.

On the air - Miss Jean Murray Smith, Soprano, 125 Main Street, Buckpool, the well known local singer is to be heard on the Home Service radio programme.

Jones Shipyard launch - A second minesweeper was launched on Wednesday of this week from Jones' Shipyard. There was no ceremony.

Football - John Valentine, who played at centre half for Buckie Thistle in the recent Qualifying Cup win played a trial for Hibs second XI at Easter Road on Saturday.

Shelter at Victoria Park - With Buckie Town Council giving permission for its erection a start has been made for a spectator shelter at Victoria Park on the opposite side from the grandstand.

Spike's new serial - Horror on the Hill started in this edition.

Dec 4 **Business for sale** - The old-established business of Wm. Geddes and Sons, Joiners and Undertakers Portessie, was for sale.

Connection with German spies - Mr John Geddes 'Bosun' 84 Main Street, Buckpool retired from the railway after giving 38 years service. For the last ten years he has been porter in charge at Buckpool. On 30 September 1940, however, he was employed at Portgordon Station when two German spies, a man and a woman, came there to purchase tickets. The mode of dress of the man aroused his suspicion and after alerting the stationmaster, who went then to call the police, he kept up a conversation with the couple as he went about his business sweeping out the waiting room until P C Bob Grieve appeared on the scene.

Football - Win for Johnny 'Diles' new team - 'Diles' who resigned as manager of the Rovers some time before because of pressure of work had recently started up a new team called, Buckie Athletic, who made a good start to win their first game in the Buckie Welfare League. They beat Keith team, Central Hibs, by 4 goals to 2 at the Linzee Gordon Park. G. Cowie had 2, with Smith and Webster having one apiece. The Athletic who played the first ten minutes with only 9 men until

Brookes and Webster turned up did very well to win. Veteran Geordie Brookes played a major part in the victory.

Dec 18 **Buckie Welcome Home Fund** - Police Judge Milton described Buckie Welcome Home Fund as Buckie's biggest fraud, after Councillor Lawson had again brought up the question of delay in its disbursement, at last week's council meeting.

Death of Singing Master - The death took place this week at his home in Portessie of James B. Nicol, the well-known singing master in Schools. He was 47.

Soldier reported missing in action - Pte. George Hadden, 1st Black watch, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Hadden, formerly of Sunnybrae, Findochty, is reported missing after the **Battle of the Hook** in Korea.

Pte Hadden who is 19 sailed in July for Hong Kong in the troopship, Fowey. He had only been three days in Korea. His parents now live at Ryeyards Croft, Alves, Morayshire.

Football - The former Buckie Thistle player whose home was in Findochty and who signed for Kilmarnock in 1949 has again signed for Buckie. He is to be in the team for Saturday against Deveronvale. The team is - Rennie, Tough and Dutch; Thain, Valentine and Jeffrey; Donaldson, Milne, McIntyre, Buchan and Stewart.

Dec 25 **Opening announcement** - Wm Douglas and Sons, Builders, Portessie are to open premises at 1 Bank Street as a showroom for tiled grates and low combustion fires.

Badges for Civil Defence workers - The following wardens received badges from Provost Reid - George Smith, George Packman, James Johnston, Herbert Taylor, Henry Scott, Ian Hendry, Alexander Legge, Alexander Taylor, George Craig, Alexander Garden and L. C. Fowler.

The following rescue workers also received their awards - Alexander Spence, George Mitchell, George Packman Jun., Alex Milne, Edward Douglas, J. Mitchell, S. Hamilton, Patrick McGrory, Bruce Grant, A. Thomson, James C. Milne and J. A. Simpson.

Lodge Gordons 589 - The newly appointed RWM is John L. McNaughton.

Poem - 'From Santa's Mailbag' Written on page 4 by M. J. Minty, Rosehearty.

Dear Santa Claus, it is eight o'clock
 And I should be in bed,
 But because Mummy says that I might sit
 And write to you instead;
 Because 'twill soon be Xmas Eve,
 And I'm so afraid, you see,
 That if I don't remind you
 You'll forget dear baby and me.
 Baby is such a tiny thing,
 Who will suck his thumb and bawl,
 He won't need much this Xmas,
 His sock is oh so small.
 He's really good for all his size,
 So please give him a toy,
 Whether you consider
 Would please a baby boy.
 I am eight and always good -
 At least, I nearly am-
 I'd like if you would leave me,
 A sleeping doll and pram;
 And then I'd be like Mummy,
 I'd wash 'smalls' every day,
 And I'd push the pram so proudly,
 Or with dolly I would play.

I am awfully fond of candy,
And sweets and apples too,
Oh there's heaps of things I long for,
But times are hard on you;
And so I'll leave my moneybox,
Please take a shilling bright,
'Twill help to pay for something
(And for working thro' the night).
Dear Santa, how I love you,
You're my best and dearest frien'
I hope I wake this Xmas
To find you've been again,
And filled my tree with parcels,
And left my pram and doll,
Wee brother's presents,
The candy, sweets, and all.
Good-night dear Santa Claus, to you,
(Our chimney is not wide),
But Daddy will unlatch the door,
So please just step inside.