

1954

Jan 7 **Rathven Parish Statistics** - The figures show an increase in number of births, deaths and marriages between 1953 and 1952.

	1952	1953
Births	258	272
Deaths	117	138
Marriages	94	98

Of the 98 deaths in 1953, 42 were over 70.
31 were over 80
5 were over 90

Eight children, five males and 3 female died below the age of ten

Of the 272 babies born, 123 males and 13 females were born in Seafield Hospital. The proportion of males to females in the total number of new babies was 142 males and 130 females.

Of the 98 marriages, 4 were civil marriages taking place in the office of the Registrar.

Company Director found guilty - An Enzie Company Director, who, while driving a van, collided and injured three people, one who subsequently died appeared to have got off lightly when his total fines amounted to £11.10. This was after it had been found that the van was not in as good a running order as it should have been with the brakes not properly fixed.

The Spike serial - This edition of the B.A. carries chapter seven of the story 'The Herring Pirates'.

Advertisers - Hepworths - 13a-17 East Church Street. Cluny House Hotel. J. Stephen Prop.

'Taxi Sir' - Millers Motors 55-59 West Church Street. A & C Cole
Hairdressers, Cluny Square

Alex Reid & Son. Coal Merchants, Comm. Road. Cycle and Radio Engineer C. Robertson.

Wm. G. Reid, Plumber and San. Eng. Carlton Terr. Geo. Robertson,
Draper, Cullen.

P. Deas, Portessie, Taxi and Hire car. Wm. Douglas, Bank St. Tiled
Grates.

Thos. W. Lang Optician, 29 West Ch. St. J. Allan, Huntly Piano and
Organ Tuning

W. F. Johnston, Lending Library. Taxi! - Geddes, 2 William
Street.

Fire places - Geo. Packman West Cathcart Street. Murphy Radios, £17.10
Barclay E.Ch. St

Modern Photography - Studio Portessie. Cement Blocks - Ice Co.
Photography - W. F. Johnston Alex Esson, Tailor and

Outfitter
W.G. Davidson, Murphy Radiograms, Cullen. F.Ritchie 72 East Ch. Street.

Scottish Gas Board - Millbank Garage - A70 Hereford
Carpets - Henderson's 253 High Street Elgin Buy it at B& M's High
St. Elgin

Robertsons House Furnishers Buckie, Banff, Keith, Fordyce. Soccer Football Pools.
Funeral Undertakers - A. Hendry and Sons A. Campbell and Sons.

James Robertson Holburn Granite Works Abdn. Elgin Granite Works
Floral Art, Christies Florists, Nurseries, Fochabers. Gordon Cleaning Company,
Huntly.

George Clark, Butcher, 23 High Street. James Mackay, Draper,
Clothier etc.

Davidson's Stores, 5 Bridge Place.

Buckie Calypso - The shortage of water had been something that had plagued Buckie for a long long time, with discussion taking place at different times about taking water from the River Avon and the Spey. The Spey was again back in favour. Bailie Tuxworth wrote a few lines on the subject and called it the Buckie Calypso, and hoped that it is sang in music of a calypso style.

Past Fochabers runs the Spey
 We want the water to come this way
 The question is - "But who would pay?"
 A 'Developed area' would show the way;
 If by this it should accrue
 Buckie's dream would then come true.

When it was first considered taking water from the Spey, many years before, this was looked on as a pipe dream, a fanciful notion by a writer in the Northern Scot.

Jan 14 **Music for the Buckie Calypso** - Steven Merson, Violinist, of Buckie, at present attending the Music School in Glasgow set the 'Buckie Calypso' to music and forwarded this to Bailie Tuxworth. He said how he had written the music while sitting in a café at lunchtime and hoped that this would meet requirements.

Answer to Bailie Tuxworth - A regular contributor to the Banffshire Advertiser, J. C. Portgordon wrote the following lines -

The civic heads of Buckie could;
 Led, "My Dear Sir" by you,
 Find ways and means, as wise men should,
 To make folk's dreams come true.
 The River Spey goes on its way,
 Defying man and Fate -
 It waits not, for another day,
 Prevailed upon to wait.
 So waken up you councillors,
 Dreams don't develop brains;
 Time wasted on wishful thinking,
 Is money down the drain.

Testimonial to Rev John Greenlaw - People are being invited to contribute to a fund to mark the occasion of the retiral of Rev John Greenlaw from the ministry.

Advertisers - Stock-taking sale - E. Smith, Burnside Stores, Findochty.
 Winter Sale - C.C. Gray, Draper, Cullen
 Sutherlands Furnishing Store - High Street. Stock-taking sale.
 Skirt making service - The Ladies Shop, 39 West Church Street.

Early booking for Cullen Town Hall - Cullen Town Council were surprised to receive a booking for the Town Hall from the local British Legion before the hall has been built. Work is in progress, however, with a new roof being put on.

Council to buy ex-service huts - perhaps ! The town council were considering buying two of the huts at the foot of McLaren's Brae, which formerly housed naval personnel, later a number of 'squattter' families, to house the family of Mr James Stewart, Mr John Wilson McMillan. The huts had been sold, through the council, for the Government, to Mr John Young at £5 each, who was now willing to sell two huts back at a price of £200 each.

Jan 21 **Photographs** - The front page carried pictures of two soldiers, meantime serving in Malaya. Craftsman Jimmy Anderson, REME, 22, of Carnoch Cottages, Rathven who was a carpenter at Herd & McKenzie Shipyard before being called for National Service, and Pte Ronald Smith, Gordon Highlanders, 19, of Riddoch's Sawmill, Drybridge.

Labour Party AGM - The officials appointed were - Chairman- George Taylor, Vice Chairman - George Fraser; Secretary/Treasurer - David Grant.

Portessie Chapter OES 256, Burns Supper - The Immortal Memory was given by Thomas J. McBeath, Buckie. The theme of his talk was the lassies in Burns's life.

Enzie School bairns - A picture of page 7 shows the pupils of Enzie Junior Secondary School who performed at a concert held in the school. A second photograph on the same page shows a group of children and adults taken at the opening of new swings in the playground.

Advert - Ladies' shoes from 5/- a pair. Baltic Boot Store, 16 High Street.

Death of Wm. 'Bill' Smith - The death took place on Sunday of Mr William 'Bill' Smith, solicitor, President and Manager of Buckie Thistle Football Club. He was also Chairman of the Buckie Welfare Society.

Buckie Welfare League - The league stated again on Saturday after the winter shut-down. The teams from the top down read - Huntly United, Central Hibs (Keith), Seafield Albion, Strathlene, Buckie Rovers, Arradoul and Spurs.

Jan 28 **The Ageing population** - The county M.O.H. gave a revealing report. (This would have been even more revealing written in 2001).

Burns Suppers - These were still very popular in 1954, with a number of different organisations holding such events.

Rathven WRI had as principal speaker, Mr W. F. Johnston, Headmaster at Enzie Junior Secondary School.

Buckie Labour Party had Mr Moyes Headmaster of Portknockie J. S. School.

North Church Guild had Police Judge John Milton.

Arradoul WRI had Mr R.W. Carstairs, PT English at Buckie High School.

The Findochty Masonic Lodge had Mr W.S. Duthie MP. He spoke of Burns saving the Scottish Doric from extinction. Would all agree with this?

Spike - In his column in this edition he had a series of sketches designed around the 'Buckie Calypso' with a number of comments included.

Advert - Hoover washing machines, cleaners and accessories - Millers Motors, 55-59 West Church Street.

Death of farmer and former athlete - Forbes Urquhart, 80, died at his home Westerton Farm, Findochty this week. In his youth he was a very successful athlete at the various Games in the neighbourhood, Enzie, Drybridge, Auchinhalrig and Portknockie.

Buckie Thistle - Mr John H. Duncan, 4 Mill Crescent, was appointed President of Buckie Thistle in succession to the late Mr Wm. 'Bill' Smith. Mr Edward Fraser was appointed vice president and Douglas Stewart, treasurer.

Mr Angus Macdonald, a former manager, was appointed interim manager with Mr Duncan until the end of the season.

Football - Portsoy made application to rejoin the Welfare League after being out for two years.

Feb 11 **Enzie Church** - The church at Broadley is now heated by Calor Gas with 10 convex heaters installed. Lights have been installed also above the pulpit and organ. The Dedication took place on Sunday by Rev F. P. Chisholm.

Feb 18 **Death of boss of joinery firm** - The death took place this week of John Hendry at his home 11 Land Street at the age of 77. He was the elder brother of Dr Geo. Hendry, ex Provost of Buckie. John Hendry was a prominent businessman in the town. He had

been for 50 years head of the joinery firm of Messrs A. Hendry and Sons. The firm was founded over 100 years before by his grandfather, Alex Hendry, who came from Keith. He became the senior partner on the death of his father in 1922.

He had a long association and took a keen interest in the Cluny Lodge of Oddfellows, being treasurer initially before becoming secretary, a post, which he held for 25 year. He was a member of Lodge Gordon Buckie and of the Royal Arch Chapter. He was for many years a JP for the county.

He is survived by his wife and three sons, Alex and Ian who are involved in the business and George, who is a dental surgeon in Buckie.

Football- Buckie Thistle travelled to the Borders to meet Peebles Rovers in the Scottish Cup. On a pitch, which was nothing more than a mud bath the game ended in a one all draw. Peebles scored after Dick Hamilton had been injured as he dived at the feet of an opposing player, with another following up to put the ball in the net. Though disputed the goal stood.

The team was - Hamilton, Tough and Leask; Thain, Dutch and Jeffrey; G. Cowie, W. Cowie, McIntyre, Buchan and Stewart.

Feb 25 **Football** - John Valentine, former Buckie Thistle player now with Queens Park has been capped for Amateur Scotland at centre half. This is his first season with the Glasgow club. He is meantime studying Agriculture at Aberdeen University.

Death of RC School Head - The death took place on Tuesday of Peter John Martin MA, headteacher of St Peter RC School. He was 50 and a native of Shettleston, Glasgow. He held a similar post at Castlebay, Barra for 15 years before coming to Buckie. He was a member of the Toastmaster, took a keen interest in both the Buckie Cricket Club and Buckie Thistle. He is survived by his wife and a family of three, two sons, Peter and Alistair and daughter, Margaret.

North Church seat rents - The congregation of the North Church are advised that the seat rents are to be collected in the vestry on Monday evening 1st and 8th March between 7.30-8.30 p.m.

Advert - 'For a tasty tea' try Finnan haddocks or golden cutlets from Merson and Gerry Fish Shop, 28 East Church Street.

Death of the North Church minister, Rev John Greenlaw- Rev John Greenlaw who had been the minister of the North Church for 45 years, arriving in Buckie in 1908 from Orkney, died in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Sunday. A full report is given on page 4.

Photograph - On page four a picture shows the large crowd of supporters who were present to watch Buckie Thistle play Peebles Rovers in a replay of their tie in the Scottish Cup.

Buckie won by seven goals to two. There was a crowd of 5,020. This was a long way short of the 7,000 crowd that saw Buckie play Third Lanark in season 1938/39 but receipts of £493 was a record sum for Victoria Park. Peebles Rovers went home with £220, £150 more than Buckie received in Peebles.

Mar 4 **Will the fish market re-open?** There was a proposal put forward to reopen the Buckie fishmarket.

Advert - All kind of seeds from Alex Imlah, Grocer and Seedsman, 10 High Street.

Photograph on page 4 - This shows the masons busy on the Buckpool housing estate

The Hays of Rannas and Lenplum were a very old Banffshire family whose ancestry is traced back to Sir Wm. Hay of Lockhart in 1421. They took an active part in the affairs of the country and several members of the family took holy orders.

In the book " Collections of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff" the following is written - viz.- Ranis, the seat of the Hay of Ranis, the first of which family was descended of the Lord Yester and after having been a RC priest becoming a Protestant at the

Reformation and was made parson of Rathven The article, found on page five goes on to speak about the last laird of Rannas, Andrew Hay, the Jacobite giant, who after being out with Prince Charlie in 1745/46 was forced to go into exile.

Poem - 'The Yarmouth Season' written by John Cowie a grandson of John Cowie 'Coup' the fisherman poet. The present John Cowie is a member of the crew of the Ben Line steamer, Ben Macdhui. The poem, of considerable length is found on page 5.

Football - Buckie Thistle were beaten by five goals to three when they played First Division team, Partick Thistle, at Firhill, in the next round of the Scottish Cup. "The better team lost", were the words of one Partick player.

Mar 11 **Photograph** - This found on the front page, shows Rosemary Paton receiving a presentation from her fellow workers at Fowler's bakery on Gordon Street.

Advice - Notice is given that the 'Ladies Shop' has now moved next door into what was previously the 'Man's Shop'.

Drinks licence for new shop - James Paterson, was granted a 'drinks' license for his premises at St Andrew's Square provided the license he previously had for his premises on Main Street were withdrawn.

Mar 18 **Death of Alex Wilson JP**, 3 Lennox Place, Portgordon. He was a native of Dufftown and after serving his time in Aberlour came to Buckie to work with John Simpson on Bank Street. He was later in business as a shoemaker in the village for over 30 year.

Mar 25 Found little or interest to note

Apr 1 **Buckie Town Council** - Three new candidates put their names forward - Adam Gowie, Carpenter, Gordonsburgh, Edward Douglas, Master Builder and Wm. E. Thomson, Boatbuilder.

Apr 8 **The fishing boat 'Quiet Waters' sank** - - Two Buckie men lost their lives - James McBeath Mair, 50, cook of 65 Yardie and John Murray Coull, 24 of 30 New Street.

Hydro Dam accident claims life of Buckie man - A native of Buckie, Stanley Stewart, 34, formerly of Main Street but who was living in Aberdeen fell to his death down a 40 foot shaft while working on a Hydro Dam project at Cluanie.

Poem - 'Lost In The Snow' written by J. C. Portgordon, is found on page 10.

Apr 15 **Start of the saga of the Portknockie dustcart** - Councillors complained that the new cart was a bad buy after it was found that the horse was unable to pull it. (Word of this went all round the world)

For sale - Store, former grocery shop, at 22 Main Street is for sale.

Football - The Spurs who were trailing at the foot of the Welfare League chose to withdraw due to lack of funds to carry on.

Buckie Town Council - Edward Douglas, one of the new candidates, topped the poll in a very low turnout of voters. Wm. Thomson was also elected but Adam Gowie was unsuccessful.

Killed on the road - Duncan Fraser a native of Fyvie and grieve at Rannas Farm was hit by a vehicle while cycling on the Fochabers to Cullen road near the Bauds Smiddy and sustained injuries from which he died. He was 38 and leaves a wife and 6 of a family. A man was arrested.

Football - Photograph of Buckie Thistle - Highland League Champions 1953/54 is shown on page 7. The Thistle also won the Morganti Cup (Highland League Cup) and Qualifying Cup.

New Headmaster for St Peter's School. Mr A. Doran MA Dip Ed moved from Kirkcaldy to Buckie.

Apr 29 **Football** - Another trophy for the Thistle - Buckie Thistle won the Dewar Shield to add to their trophy haul for the season when they beat Brechin City home and away to record an aggregate score of 5-1.

May 6 **Football** - Buckie Thistle was given a civic reception to mark their outstanding success this season - 1953/54.

Photograph on front page - This shows a party of Gordon Highlanders as they arrive at the Buckie railway station, home from Malaya.

Football - A report is given on page 8 of the accidental death of Ian Tommy Stewart, 17, of Lossiemouth, a prominent player in junior circles. He was crushed to death while helping to move war-time concrete blocks off the beach when one, weighing 2 tons, fell over and crushed him. A trophy was donated in his memory, called the Stewart Memorial Cup, and was still being played for in 2001. The Rovers had won it many times.

May 13 **Banffshire Advertiser** . The first paper ever printed in November 1881 cost 1d. In 1954 it was still only costing 2 1/2d.

Portknockie - Portknockie Town Council decided to sell the dust cart, which proved to be too heavy for the horse to pull it. It was either that of get another horse or a tractor.

Poem or rather doggerel - written about the feat of Buckie Thistle in season 1953/54.

Football - The future of Peterhead F.C. was in the balance. (They obviously managed to weather that particular storm and joined the Scottish Third Division in season 2000/2001 along with Elgin City. They were proving better equipped than Elgin, however, in the higher level, being about mid-table while Elgin were bottom, at least in April.)

Lotted lands - The lotted lands (around Keith) and also farms on the Keith and Delfur sections of the Seafield Estate were up for sale.

May 20 **Photograph on the front page**, shows some of the women who helped to run a Sale of Work in aid of Buckie North Church. The sum of £60 was raised towards the Sunday School picnic funds.

Photograph in this edition shows Mr Wink, a horseman at Leitcheston Farm, Enzie working a team of four horses. (It looks as if the horses might have been pulling a heavy implement called a grubber, used to 'break in' heavy soil.)

May 27 **Dances** - In the Fishermen's Hall on Saturday 29 May - Prizes - Geddes's Band - 2/6

In the Fishermen's Hall on Monday 31st May from 8.30 till 1 a.m. Jimmy Sutherland and the Lido band. 3/- Refreshments - free bus from Kinloss and Elgin with usual buses along the coast.

Arradoul Youth Club - Old Time Dance in the Town House Hall on Saturday 29 May from 8-11.30 2/- Waverley Band. Usual buses. (These dances had been continuing every Saturday evening for the past four years.)

St Andrew's Hotel - Cocktail Bar now open upstairs.

Football - A photograph of Arradoul, Y. C. the Welfare League is shown on page 11. Alex Murray, (trainer), Sandy Murray, Adam Cowie, Alfie Bremner, Andy Morrison, Gordon McKenzie, John Murray and George 'Dod' Innes, Manager; Geddes Cowie, Jim Campbell, Murray Farquhar, Dennis Gowie and John Smith.

June 3 **Bakery changes hands** - Wm. Young gave notice that he had purchased his late father's bakery business at 45 West Church Street, which had been owned for the past ten years by the late W. W. Hepburn.

The Radium BF1489 On page t of this edition an article is written about the members of the crew, with a photograph of them also being shown.

The crew are - A. W. Mair, 'King', G. Smith 'Mickey', G. Slater, J, Smith 'Jeck', A. Anderson 'Peach', W. Smith 'Currie' W. Campbell, 'Porter', D. Flett 'Dip' The total age of the men came to 532 years.

June 10 **Shift for Buckpool P.O.** - As from Tuesday 15 June 1954 the Buckpool sub Post Office will be located in the new shop of Mr David Main, Chemist, at 12 St Andrews Square. Mr Main was previously on Main Street. (Paterson, Grocer, also moved from Main Street at the same time and took up the new shop next door to Mr Main on St Andrew's Square.)

Annual bus outing - Arradoul Youth Club annual outing is to take place on Sunday 27 June. Seats must be booked at the dance on Saturday night.

Plane crashes at Cuttlebrae, Clochan - The pilot escaped without injuries after baling out from his plane which crashed into a field in front of the farm of Cuttlebrae on Thursday June 3.

Poem written by W. J. Cowie, titled 'D Day' is found on page 5, columns 4 and 5.

Gordon Castle in the throes of being demolished - A note is given on page 5. (The stones went to build the reservoir at Glenlatterach, Elgin.)

June 17 **Poem This was written by J. C. Portgordon** . It is concerned with the Portknockie horse, which earned fame, when it refused to pull the new dust cart. J. C. called his poem "Horse Sense"

VC in official party at Aberdeen - George I. McIntosh, VC was a member of the official party when the Lord Provost of Aberdeen took the salute at the march past of the London Scottish on Friday June 18 1954. The report mentioned that he ended his wartime service in the RAF as a Warrant Officer, in some reports this was given as Flight Sergeant.

New Buckie Police Station opens - - A photograph in this edition was taken at the opening of the new Police Station on South West Street.

June 24 **Butcher expands** - John Taylor and Sons, Butchers, Main Street, are to open a branch shop at 29 West Church Street on Monday 5th July. This to coincide with the meat de-rationing.

Clever loons and quines - The following were the Duxes of their respective schools.

Buckie High School - Jean Pearson	St Peter's Primary Dept. - H. Milton
Findochty School - Sheena Phimister	St Peter's Senior Dept. - E. Dalgarno.
Lady Cathcart - Wm. Ferguson	Portknockie School - John Badenoch
Cullen School Primary Dept. Helen Gardiner	Portessie School Primary Dept -.
Lillian Innes	
Findochty School Primary Dept. Ian Campbell	Portknockie School Primary Dept -.
Helen Smith	

Cullen School Senior Dept. Ian Anderson Portgordon School , Rosemary Murray Primary
 Portgordon School Senior Dux - Margaret Cowie.
 Joint Duxes of Portessie Primary Dept. Rosemary Bruce and Mary Farquhar.

Old Men's Outing - Five buses took a group of elderly men on their annual outing. Baillie Tuxworth and Councillor Lawson accompanied them. Provost Reid travelled by car and met up with the party at Turriff, where they had stopped for a meal.

County architect dies - Major Wood, Cullen architect with Banff County Council died in a hospital in Aberdeen this week, He was 66. Major Wood was a native of Findochty and started his working life as an art teacher at Oban High School after taking a diploma in Art. He was called up to the army during the first war in 1914, joining as a private before later being commissioned in the field. After the war he returned to Oban and during some years there took a number of degrees to become an architect.

Football - Arradoul (Youth Club), playing in the Buckie Welfare League, won the St Valery Trophy.

July 1 **Meat rationing ended today July 1 1954.** From now on butchers can buy all the supplies of meat they want, farmers can sell their fat stock wherever they have a mind to and housewives can go to any butcher and choose any quantity and quality of meat she pleases.

July 8 **Buckie Thistle AGM** - John H. Duncan was re-elected President with Edward Fraser as vice president.
 As was the practice with his predecessor, Mr Bill Smith, Mr Duncan is also team manager.
 Frank Smith was re-appointed trainer with the representatives to the Highland League, being John Duncan and Archie Douglas.

Photograph - Shows a group of men employed tiling the player's bath in the pavilion at Victoria Park. They are George Innes, Jim Leask, Frank Smith (trainer) , Adam Cowie, Alex 'Cak' Campbell (linesman) and young Michael Leask.

Photograph - This shows George Clark and two other men standing outside his butcher's shop on High Street. (This was across the street from the Commercial Hotel, now the Old Coach Inn. In 2000 it was a clothing shop for young children called 'Natalies'.)

July 15 **Photograph** - This shows the butcher shop belonging to W. A. Smith, Butcher, 10 Station Road, Portessie. His advert said that he had been in business for 30 years

Strathlene Beach is described as a disgrace and turning tourists away , being covered with seaweed thrown up by recent storms which has never been removed.

Change at the Drill Hall - CSM Eric Coggle, who has been PSI for four years to 'A' Company 5/6 Gordon Highlanders (TA) at Buckie leaves this week to join the Regular Battalion on the completion of his tour of duty with the TA
 From the officers and men he received a leather travelling bag as did Mrs Coggle.
 CSM Coggle is to be succeeded in Buckie by Sergeant Bright, 1st Gordons. Sergeant Bright has been in the army since 1941.

Jly 22 **Peter Fair dances** - Dances will take place in the Fishermen's Hall on Thursday 22nd July and Friday 23rd July. On the Thursday music for dancing will be played by Bill Geddes' band while on Friday it will be Jimmy Sutherland's, Band from Elgin.
 On Thursday the dance will continue until 1 a.m. while on Friday it will end at 1.30 a.m. Admittance on Thursday is 2/6 and on Friday 3/-
 There will be the usual buses along the coast.

Dances elsewhere – Cullen Bowling and Tennis Club are holding a dance in the Drill Hall, Cullen on Friday 23 July with music by Bill Geddes. . Admittance 2./6
Seafield Albion F. C. are also to hold a dance on Peter Fair night, 23 July. This will take place in the Seafield Hall, Portknockie, with music supplied by the Blue Star Band. Admittance 2/6.

On Saturday 24 July a Grand Dance will take place in the Fishermen's Hall, with music by the Nicholson Group. Dance prizes and Spot prizes. Admittance 2/6.

Arradoul Youth Club are holding a dance in the Town House on Saturday 24 July from 8 until 11.30 p.m., with music by the Waverley Band. Admittance 2/-. Usual buses.

A Holiday Dance will take place in the Fishermen's Hall on Monday 26 July from 9 until 1.30 a.m. Music by the Moray Melodymakers. Admittance 3/-

Buses from Kinloss and Elgin.

A dance will take place in the Spey Bay hall on Friday 30 July from 9-1.30 a.m. A **Holiday Queen** will be chosen . the competition is open to all with handsome prizes being offered to the winner and runner up. Music to be supplied by the Collegians Band.

Admittance 3/- Free buses from Elgin and Buckie.

Buckie Welfare League AGM - The new president is J. L. Hay, Portsoy who succeeds George Innes, Arradoul, who retires this season. The vice president is to be Victor Walker, Cullen. A secretary and treasurer has still to be appointed with J. Farquhar intimating that he was resigning.

The League Championship Shield and Duncan Cup, both won by Huntly United were handed over to their secretary.

July 29 **New playing field opened at Cullen** - A new playing field costing £2,000 was opened this week with a football match between A Buckie Thistle Select and a Welfare League Select. The Thistle team won by three goals to one.

Peter Fair - This only warranted three paragraphs and one photograph, showing two small boys on the merry-go-round, and said much the same as has been the case many and many a time before. It did say that despite the good weather it seemed that there were less people than normal. There was no marquee dance though there was a dance in the Fishermen's Hall, which was packed out. In the Banffshire Advertiser of July 22 a reporter called at the stance and interviewed two representatives of the Seafield Estates who collect the money off the stall holders for their stances. One told the reporter that during the time when horses were being sold at Peter Fair it cost 3d for each horse that was being sold. The same person said that he believed that Peter Fair had been going for 100 years, if he had said three hundred years at least he would not have been too far out.

Aug 5 **Myxomatosis a virus that had a devastating effect on rabbits.** This was the first time that the word had been seen in the local paper. A report said that the spread of Myxomatosis was having an effect on the ironmongery trade with the sale of shot guns getting a big knock.

War Memorial - The town council were discussing the effect on the stonework of people clambering on to it. It was suggested that there was a need to erect a railing around it.

Circus - Billy Smart's circus, which was making its first visit to Scotland, is to be in Elgin from August 12 until the 14th.

Football - Morayshire Junior Football Association are to play a match against the Faeroes touring side. This will take place at Boroughbriggs, Elgin, on August 11.

Football - Buckie Thistle are to play a trial match in Victoria Park on Saturday. Team A to be – Hamilton, Tough and Leask; Thain, Dutch and Jeffrey; W. Forsyth, Andrew Slater, Norman Shepherd, Willie Allan and Sandy McPherson

Team B to be – Shearer, Taylor and Sandy Marshall, G. Innes, Corsie and Flett. G. Cowie, W. Cowie, McIntyre, Buchan and Stewart.

In the event two changes were made to the sides – George Cormack played at I/R instead of Norman Shepherd while Andy Morrison was at R/B in place of Taylor in team B. Team A won by three goals to two.

Aug 12 **Keith Show** - There was 34,000 at Keith Show on Tuesday despite very heavy rain. The figure was 5,000 down on the record set in 1953. Only once before in 1912 has the Show been spoiled by the weather.

Buckie Pipe Band - It was decided at a meeting held in the Town House that Buckie would again have a pipe band. It was said that both the pipes and drums of the last band were out on loan but could be easily retrieved. The motion that the band be resurrected was proposed by Lt Commander Wm. Hodgson.

Buckie Fishmarket - The local fishmarket, which had been closed for a considerable time with all fish landed being consigned to Aberdeen, is to be re-opened. This was decided following considerable discussion and an agreement that fish buyers would return. There are to be two auctions held daily.

Death of W. F. Samuel - The death took place this week of W.F. Samuel at his home Ardcuan, Cliff Terrace. He was 72 and was a native of Larbert. He began work at the age of 13 with James Jones and Sons, Wood Merchants and in time became a representative of the firm travelling extensively throughout Scotland. He came to Buckie in 1906 after Jones had bought a sawmill and engineering business on Commercial Road. In 1937 the sawmill was destroyed by fire and he again went on the road a northern representative of the firm.

In 1945 when he had been 50 years with the firm he received a gold watch for his services. He retired two years ago at the age of 70.

He was a prominent bowler and besides holding many official positions captured a number of honours. He was a keen horticulturist and as a judge his services were sought far and near. He was also an enthusiastic exhibitor and won many prizes for his flowers and vegetables. He was president of the Buckie and District Horticultural society, which he helped to resurrect in 1918 after it had been in abeyance for a number of years.

He served on Buckie Town Council from 1920 until 1923

He had a great love of poetry and was, himself, an amateur poet who had a number of his poems published in Scottish magazines and newspapers.

Photograph - This shows a number of **Buckie veterans of the 6th Battalion Gordon Highlanders** who attended a reunion held at Huntly. In the picture are – Wm. Scorgie, James Cumming, James Cumming (two men with the same name) Charles Farquhar, George McIntosh VC, James Bowie, W. S. Cumming (Edinburgh) and James Reid.

A report is given of the re-union on page 7.

Want to buy your house ? - The town council are to consider offers made by tenants to buy their municipal house.

Poem - This is written by George Thomson, Tynet and is titled Morganti Cup Final

Supporters' club - At the annual general meeting of Buckie Thistle Supporters' Club John Moar was elected President, with Wm. Bannerman as vice president. The secretary and treasurer to be Alex Hendry. The members of the committee – Mrs Thomson, Mrs W. Milne, Miss K. Murray, Messrs L. Barclay, W. Milne, R. Scott, A. Bond. J. Leslie and A. Thomson.

L. Barclay to be transport convenor and R. Scott and entertainment's convenor.

Aug 19 **New minister for Buckie North Church** - Rev Walter D. M. Moffatt was unanimously elected minister of the North Church in succession to the late Rev John

Greenlaw. Rev Moffatt was previously minister of St Paul's Church, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen.

Buckie singer comes first - Miss Margaret E. M. Holms came first out of 18 entrants at a vocal class at Braemar Festival on Saturday. The test pieces they had to sing were - 'Deirdre's Farewell' and 'Willie's Gaen Tae Melville Castle'. Margaret is now 21 and has been singing since she was 10 and in her time has won a great many prizes. She is a pupil of Mrs Merson.

Photographs - There are three photographs on page 5 of this edition showing 'guttin' quines'.

Photograph - A good picture of Letterfourie House is shown in this edition.

First signs of Myxomatosis - The first signs that this disease had spread to Banffshire were seen this week when a vet identified the disease on a rabbit found on the public road near Bridge of Marnoch. Farmers are inclined to say that this must be an isolated case since none other have been seen. The disease at present is believed to be confined to the counties of Aberdeen, Moray and Angus.

Teenagers's Dance (Note the term, this was the first time that it had been seen) The Amaranth Craigmint court No 56 are to hold a Teenager's Dance in the Town house on Friday 3 September from 8 until 12. Music by the Waverley Band. Admittance 2/-

Photograph - found on page 7 shows a picture of fisher girls taken fifty years before.

Photograph - This shows Mr John Moar being presented with a gift by Douglas Chisholm, after opening the Arradoul Flower Show.

Sept 2 **Football photograph** shows the championship flag for season 1953/54 being unfurled by Provost Dr Reid helped by Groundsman, Mr John Farquhar.

New motor- The Millbank Garage, High Street, had the new Ford Zephyr Zodiac in their advert. This, it said, was the luxury version of the 1953 Monte Carlo winner.

Sept 9 **Photograph** - This is found on the front page. It shows Mr James Macrae, fishsalesman, at the newly re-opened fishmarket seeking offers for the first boxes of white fish.

Record crowd of visitors - The number of visitors to Britain in July 1954 was 170,000. This was 135 up on the previous year. Most of the visitors came from Europe with France, Germany and Holland being prominent. The numbers from Portugal have also greatly increased.

Portgordon Rangers - A photograph of this very successful Juvenile football team is given on page 11. Those in the picture are - A. Geddes, (trainer), A. Little and D. Harrold of Fochabers, J. Thomson (goalkeeper), Wm. Allan, S. Cowie, Wm. Geddes, A. Jessamin.

Front row. G. Geddes, H. Farquhar, E. Geddes, S. Milne and Wm. Cowie.

The Rangers won two trophies this week when they beat Spurs and Buckie United, to win the Venice Trophy and the President's Trophy respectively. This means the team has already won three trophies this season and are in the final of three others.

Sept 16 **Launch** - The Harpham, an inshore minesweeper, called after a village in Yorkshire, was launched from Messrs Jones (Buckie) Slip and Shipyard Ltd this week. This is the fourth such vessel to be built by the firm. Jones have still several more similar vessels to build to fulfil an Admiralty contract. Prior to the launch, by order of the Admiralty, a Christian service took place.

Playhouse- Doris Day and Danny Thomas in the film "I'll see You In My Dreams". Is being shown in the local cinema this week. Should be worth seeing.

Funeral of Adam Smith - The funeral took place this week of Adam Smith the 25 year old son of Mr and Mrs Charles Smith 32 Marine Place and late of Badrockleys. Adam a time served plumber had been working temporarily at Cluanie Dam, Glenmoriston, HydroElectric Scheme. It seems that while standing on a staging some 13 feet up boring into the rock face that a piece of rock was dislodge further up. He was found below the scaffold with severe head injuries from which he died.

Hope for early re-opening of Dallachy road - The people living in Nether Dallachy, Spey Bay etc, are again calling for the road which was taken over in the early 1940's when Dallachy Aerodrome was being built to be re-opened. Part of the former road formed part of the perimeter track of the 'dorm.

Photograph on page 6. This is of HMS Chilcompton, the largest warship ever to be built locally. It is seen undergoing trials in Buckie Bay (sic). It was launched from the shipyard of herd and McKenzie a year ago. It is to be handed over to the Admiralty in October.

A vet to be asked - Following discussion on the subject it was agreed to ask the advice of a vet as to whether a horse should be able to pull the dust cart which was lying in a shed disused after the present horse was unable to move it. One councillor said that the Cullen cart was bigger and the horse they had could pull it. Another councillor spoke highly of a white horse in Buckie. (Perhaps they were both the horse equivalent of Jim Maitland or George Clark.)

Cuts in train services annoy Buckie Councillors. The railway authorities have indicated that they were to reduce the number of trains running along the coast. This was likely to cause a lot of inconvenience for a great many people, especially those who were off the main bus route.

Photograph on page 8 - This shows Pennyland House, Thurso, the birthplace of Sir Wm. Smith, the founder of the Boys Brigade. The centenary of his birth will be celebrated this year.

Sept 23 **Grant for Buckie Pipe Band** - The town council gave a grant of £50 to the Pipe Band, which has just been resurrected. John Murray. Burgh Surveyor and Bailie Tuxworth are leading lights behind the re-establishment of the band.

The photograph on page 5 has been taken from the sea at the entrance to Buckie Harbour. It shows the lighthouse on the left with the Bin Hill in the background. A nice shot.

Reckoned to be a big attraction - Rainbow lights were switched on in the Fishermen's Hall on Saturday night. This is a revolving spotlight showing a myriad of colours and likely to be a decided attraction. The light was gifted by the late Wm. Smith, solicitor, who prior to his death was President of the Buckie Welfare Society, owners of the hall. The lights were switched on by Bill Geddes, bandleader, who has had a long association with the weekly dances.

Sept 30 **Buckie men to sail the Atlantic-** Two Lowestoft fishing vessels have been sold to a Nova Scotia buyer who aims to use them for fishing offshore there. They are to be taken across the Atlantic by British fishermen. Both vessels arrived in Buckie this week where Wm. Sutherland the skipper of the Boston Swift was able to visit his home in Portgordon before he made the crossing. Wm. Marshall, the engineer on the vessel also went home to Findochty. When asked what his thoughts were at making the long voyage and with the storms he was likely to meet Skipper Sutherland said he reckoned that you would meet as rough conditions in the North Sea. The boat at almost 100 feet long was quite capable of making the journey.

Football In the first two rounds of the Scottish Cup Buckie Thistle were twice drawn away from home. They beat Eyemouth 6-2 and then Duns 8-1 with Alex Stewart scoring four times

Badminton Club formed- A new club was formed in Buckie this week with the following teams agreeing to take part: - Buckie Teacher, Townhouse, T.A., South Church, Methodist Church, Portessie and Cullen.

The following were elected – President – George Clark; Vice President – R.G. Corsie; Secretary – George Mackay and Treasurer- George Hepburn.

Oct 7 **Fishing report** - For the first time since the turn of the century there will be no steam drifters in the Buckie fleet of 25 or thirty motor boats expected to take part in the East Anglian fishing. Last year there were 36 boats, with 3 steam drifters.

Front page - This tells of the induction of Rev Walter Moffatt as minister of Buckie North Church. He succeeds the late Rev John Greenlaw.

Oct 14- **Buckie lad drowns** **Nine** year old George Reid, son of Mr and Mrs Wm. Reid, Eastdale, St Peter's Road, Buckpool was found in the sea at Lennox Place, Portgordon on Friday morning. He left home to go with the milk roundsman and was last seen playing with a dog in the locality where he was found. It looks as if he must have slipped off the sea wall into the water.

Rail changes – These were again strongly criticised by the town council. The so called 'trawler train' has been withdrawn while passengers leaving Aberdeen on the 3.40 or 6.50 trains bound for the coast will now have to change at Grange and Cairnie respectively. British Rail claims the changes are necessary due to poor patronage.

Town bus service - The town council decided to ask Wm. Alexander, Bus Company if they would consider re-routing their bus service through Buckie. Councillor Jimmy Lawson said with the growth of housing in upper Buckpool many people would find it convenient if the buses were re-routed via Land Street etc.

Photographs on page 7 - Unfortunately the reproduction is poor since the two pictures on the page show a contingent of women workers about to board the train at the Buckie station for Yarmouth.

Councillor John Milton retires after 30 service to Buckie Town Council –

First council house sold - The first council house to be sold in Buckie was to an occupier in Mill Crescent for £915. Houses could be bought outright or over a 30-year period.

Largest built ship sails - The largest boat ever built in Buckie, HMS Chilompton, at 152 feet long sailed on Saturday for her base in the south. She was launched in October 1953 from the shipyard of Herd McKenzie.

Millbank Garage advert - This shows the new Austin Cambridge A40-A50 with a 1200 or 1500 engine.

Photograph of the Buckie Thistle Reserve side – Jimmy Retch, Sandy Marshall, R. Milne, Lennie Marshall, George Innes (Capt), Andy Morrison, G. Flett, George Reid (Trainer),

J. Murray, Andrew Slater, Willie Allan, George Cormack, K. Geddes, G. Andrews.

Photograph on page 12 of Elsie Reid and Myrtle Penman at the tatties at Hilton Farm.

Oct 21 **Buckie Welcome Home Committee held** its last meeting in the Town House on Wednesday when it was decided to hand over the balance of £200 to Buckie Town

Council for the maintenance of the Buckie war Memorial, expressing the opinion that the money be used to provide a protective railing round the memorial. Mr Alex Gerry, treasurer, said that out of the 1558 Welcome Home cheques which were issued 1553 had been cashed, leaving only five for which the recipients could not be traced. A full balance sheet will be available for publication after the books have been fully audited.

Polio epidemic - All the schools in Banffshire are now closed as a result of the outbreak of poliomyelitis during the past week six new cases were confirmed. There are now 14 in the county.

Photograph on page 9 shows loons playing with their hurlies (cairties) on the brae leading down to Low Street. The granite paving stones on the road surface are clearly seen.

The Thistle players to meet Queen's Park are shown on page 11

Oct 28 **Polio outbreak** there would seem to be a decline with the likelihood of schools re-opening on Monday.

New councillor - Mr Abby Bowie, Gordonsburgh was co-opted on to Buckie Town Council.

Photograph on page 6. This was taken around 1904 and shows fisher women at Yarmouth. The women are all named and hail from Findochty, Portessie and Portknockie.

Another photograph on the same page shows three fisher women at Yarmouth in 1954. Two are from Peterhead with the other being Mrs J. Murray of Seaview Terrace.

Football - Buckie Thistle drew 1-1 with Queens Park in the 4th round of the Scottish Cup. John Valentine, Buckie, was at centre half for the Glasgow side. (F. Crampsie, a brother of Bob Crampsie, radio and T.V. pundit in later years was their goalkeeper.) Jimmy Thain scored the Buckie goal.

Nov 4 **A poem is found on page 4.** This is called Cullen Toon.

Football - Buckie Thistle beat Queens Park by four goals to two at Hampden Park, Glasgow in the replay of the 4th round tie in the Scottish Cup.

Nov 11 **The Portknockie horse** - Though no information was given for the change only a short note that the horse was now able to pull the same cart.

An angling club for Buckie? There was a possibility that an angling club would be set up in Buckie with fishing in the Rochomie Reservoir.

Poem on page 6 - Called 'Remembrance', it was written by W. J. Cowie.

Polio - though there had been 14 cases of polio in Banffshire the only death so far has been in Banff where a child, below school age, has fallen a victim.

Fish market extension - Because of increased landing an increase in the size of the market at Buckie is required.

Photographs on page 10 These show a group of Portknockie fishermen taken first in 1903 and again more recently (in 1954) All the names are given.

Bellie Kirk, Fochabers - is to be re-dedicated. £7,000 has been raised for restoration work. An article is written on page 7, columns 3,4 and 5.

Nov 25 **Heavy rain** caused wide scale flooding and much damage in the local area. Houses and shops were affected. At Drybridge a long time resident, Mrs Anderson spoke of the flooding being the worst she had seen for 60 years.

Photograph on page 5 shows Portknockie and Findochty fisher girls taken about 1924. Those in the picture are all named.

A photograph on page 6 shows the pupils of Lady Cathcart School in 1911. The pupils are all named.

Dec 2 **Two boat launches on Saturday** - Despite gale-force winds two boats were launched on Saturday, one from the shipyard of Herd & McKenzie and the other from Jones'

The Havilah, a 65 feet dual purpose vessel took the water from Jones' shipyard and the Alert, 63 feet, from Herd and McKenzie.

Dance - Arradoul Youth Club who have been running dances in the Townhouse each Saturday for the past four years have a change of band. Instead of the Waverley the Starlite will play this week.

Buckie District Cage Bird Show held their first since before the last war in the Commercial Hall. There were a lot of entries and much interest shown.

Cullen new school is to cost £10,000. Domestic Science accommodation is to be provided at Buckie High School.

Dec 9 **Spikes' latest serial** - 'Last Days of Buckpool' has reached chapter 7.

Dec 16 **Ball** - The First Annual Ball held by the Building Trades is to take place in the St Andrew's Hall. Tickets cost 12/6. Music by Bill Geddes. There will be an open buffet.

Golf courses - The town council were discussing whether they could afford the upkeep of two golf courses. If one was to close it was likely to be Buckpool.

Dec 23 Found little of interest to note

Dec 30 **Bell for the Episcopalian Church.** All Saints Church now has a bell 78 years after the church was built. A bronze bell has been given to the church in memory of one of the oldest members of the congregation the late Mr Wm. Cowie 'Bullen' New Street. Buckie.

Poem on page 10 This is a long poem written by Mrs C. Hodson, Edinburgh and tells the true story of two Cullen brothers, Taylor, whom formerly lived at the Seatown Gate Lodge. The escapade, which the poem describes, took place in 1928.