

FORT WILLIAM MEMORIES



PRODUCED BY FORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FORT WILLIAM MEMORIES

A Pictorial Record

Produced by Fort William Community Council

Foreword

“Nostalgia isn’t what it used to be”. Regardless of this paradoxical saying, there can be little doubt that in the population at large there is an ever-increasing desire for knowledge about its heritage. In this respect, the community of Fort William is no different from any other, as can be judged by the popularity of photographic exhibitions and slide shows devoted to by-gone Lochaber.

Fort William Community Council, being conscious of this situation, has been keen to produce a permanent pictorial record of the town and its historical progress. Hence the reason for this book.

One of the first of these slide shows was exhibited by Jimmy Batchen in the 1960’s. Jimmy, a native of Foyers, came to Fort William to work in the British Aluminium Factory prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, and developed an affection for Lochaber and its people. This was reflected in his collection of photographic slides, and his shows always attracted large audiences.

When he retired to Forres in 1982, his slides were generously donated to the West Highland Museum, whose trustees have graciously agreed to the collection forming the basis of this publication.

Fort William Community Council is also grateful to the many local people who have allowed their private photographs to be included in this trip down “Memory Lane”, to those whose photographs have not been included in the final selection, the Fort William Library Staff and to the Highland Regional Council for its financial support.

A list of acknowledgements is incorporated at the back of the book. We trust the list is complete, but should anyone have been omitted, we apologise most sincerely to them.

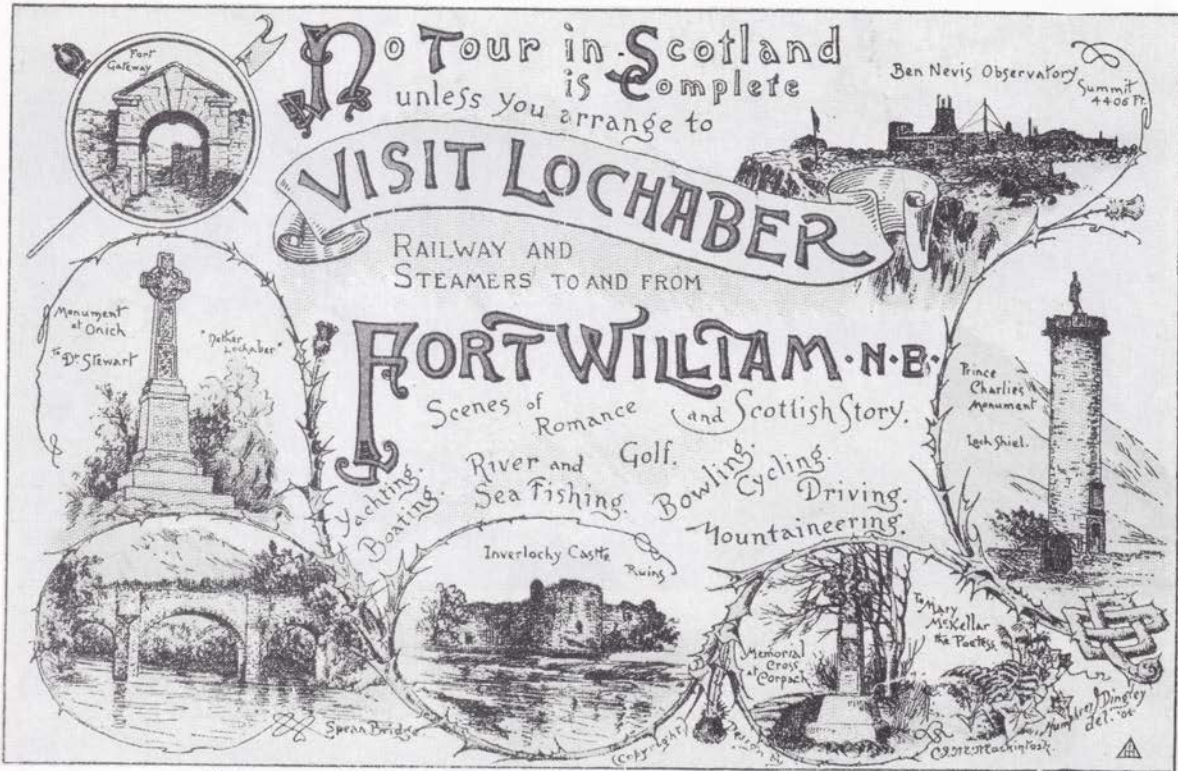
For those involved in the compilation and production of this book, in which every endeavour has been made to ensure factual accuracy, it has been a fascinating nostalgic experience. We hope you, the reader, will agree that it has been a worthwhile exercise. It would be pleasing to think that the demand for the book will necessitate a reprint and possibly even a second volume.

Neil M. Clark,
Chairman, Fort William Community Council
1987-1992

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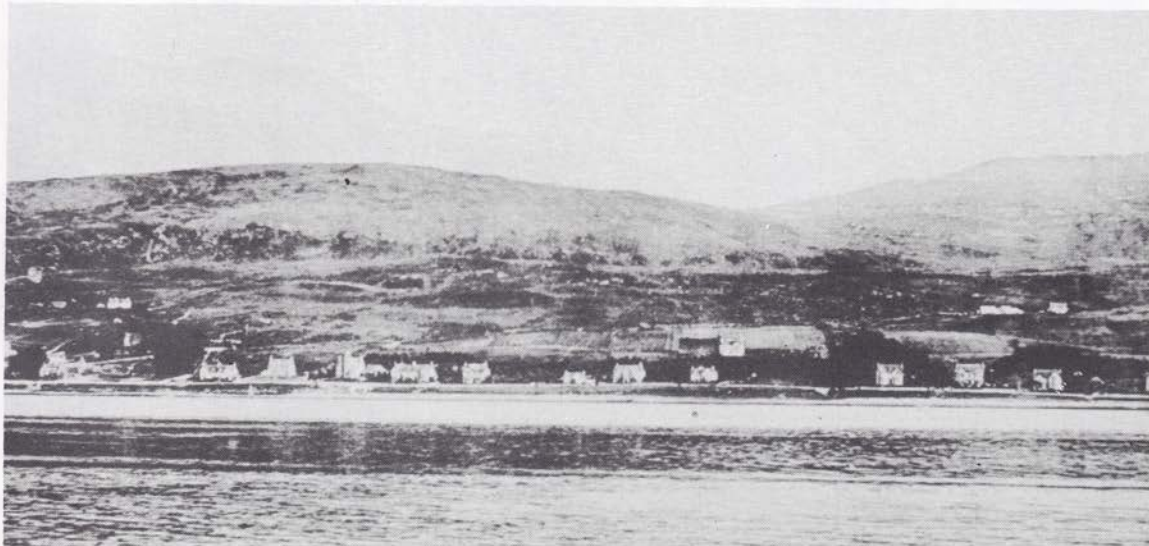
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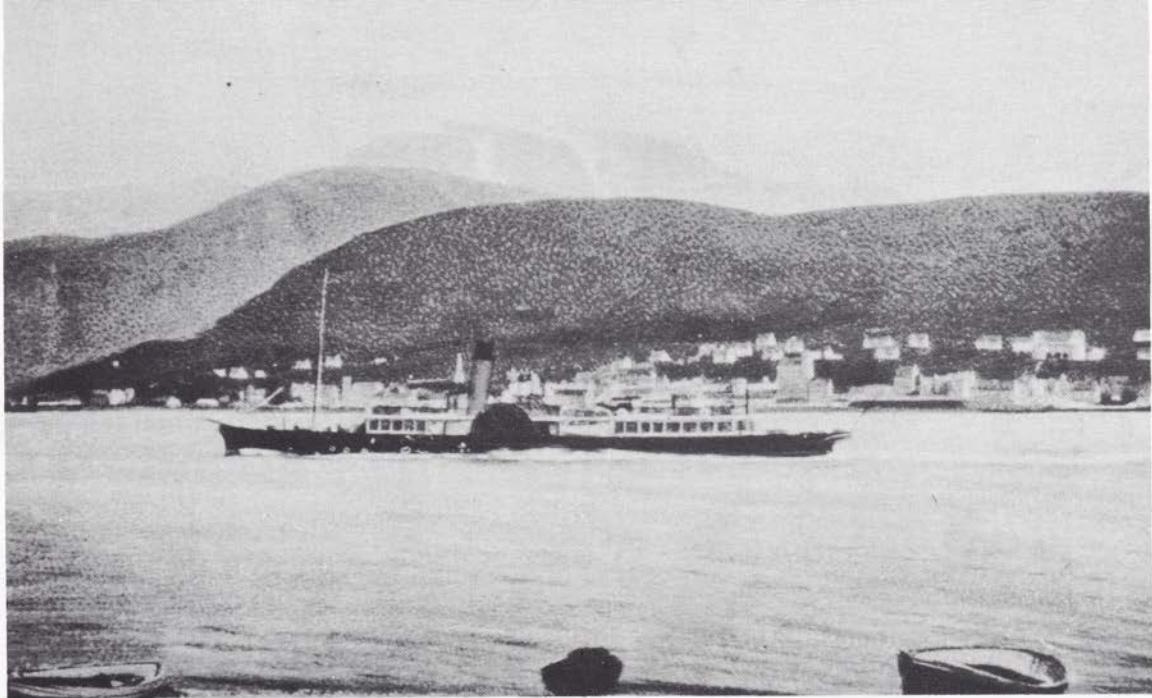
Buildings and Landmarks



Early postcard C. 1900 showing Fort William did not lack attractions in those days.

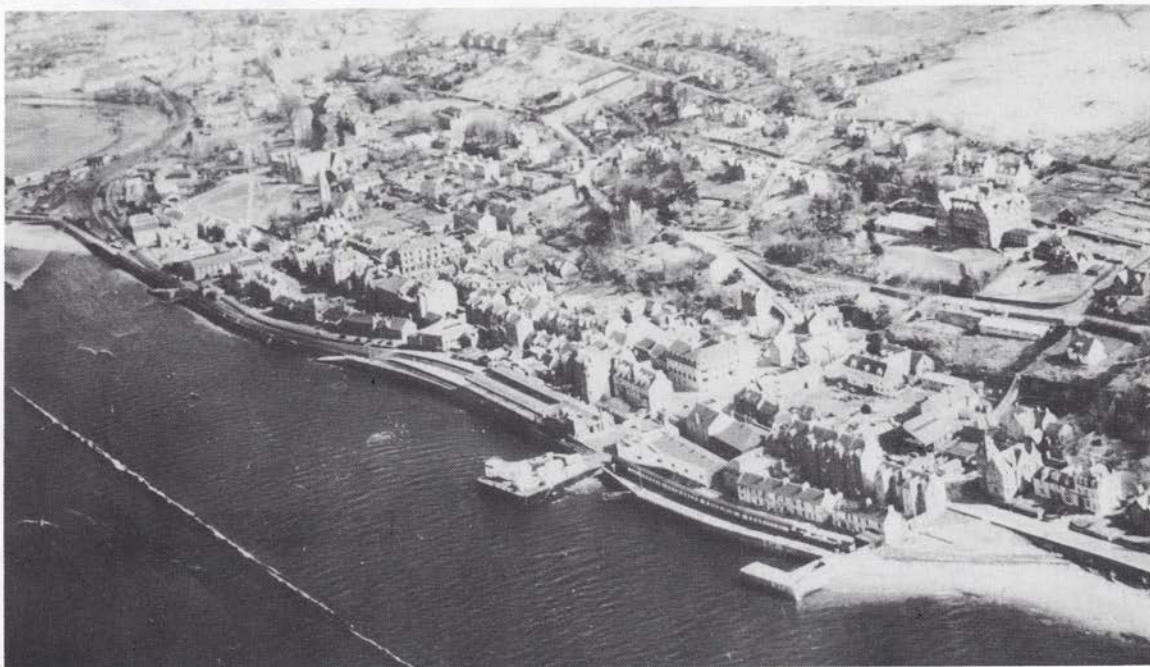
Achintore from Tresaig C. 1890. It is just possible to see the start of Lundavra Road in the bottom left hand corner.

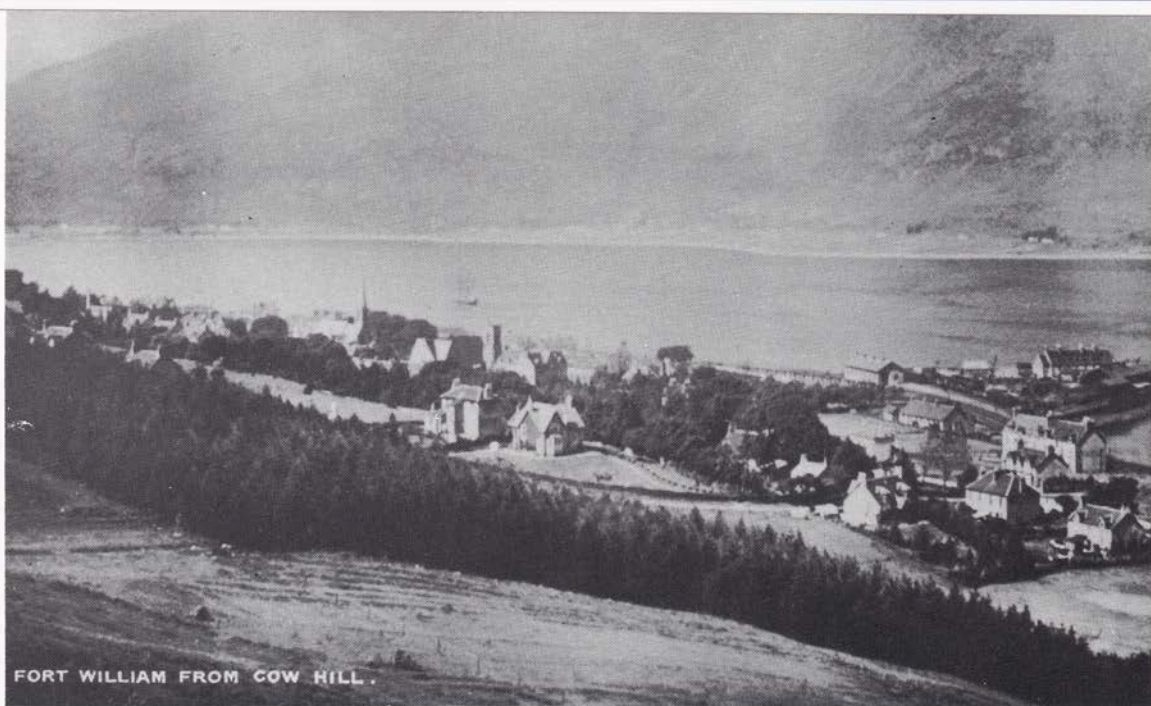




The P. S. Mountaineer which plied regularly between Glasgow and Corpach at the beginning of the century. The present day Highland Hotel is at the top right.

Aerial view of Fort William C. 1960. Points of interest are New Pier Terrace, Waverley Hotel, the railway line, Marshall and Pearson's garage and the wide open space where the Plantation houses now stand.





FORT WILLIAM FROM COW HILL.

Fort William from the Cow Hill C. 1900. Victoria Park is bottom right. The railway sidings in the old fort are clearly visible.

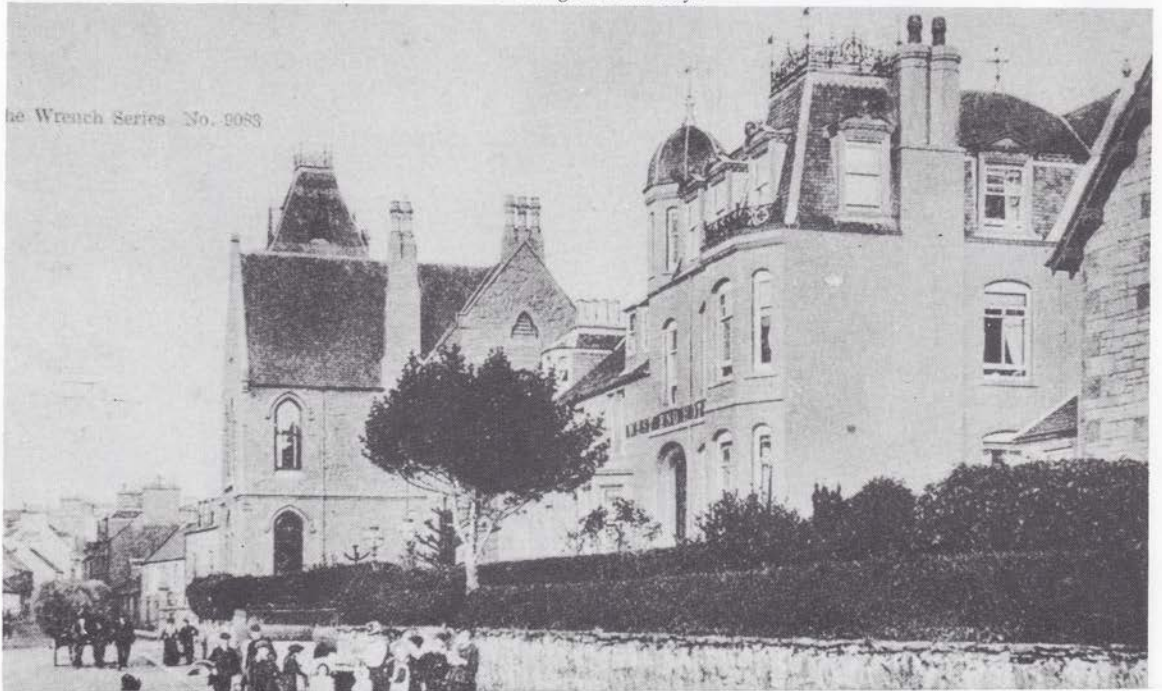
Opposite the school in Achintore Road, this shelter was a favourite haunt of courting couples.





Achintore Road looking west. Note the esplanade shelter on the right, and on the left, the Greenhill Hostel which accommodated pupils from the Islands and the country districts.

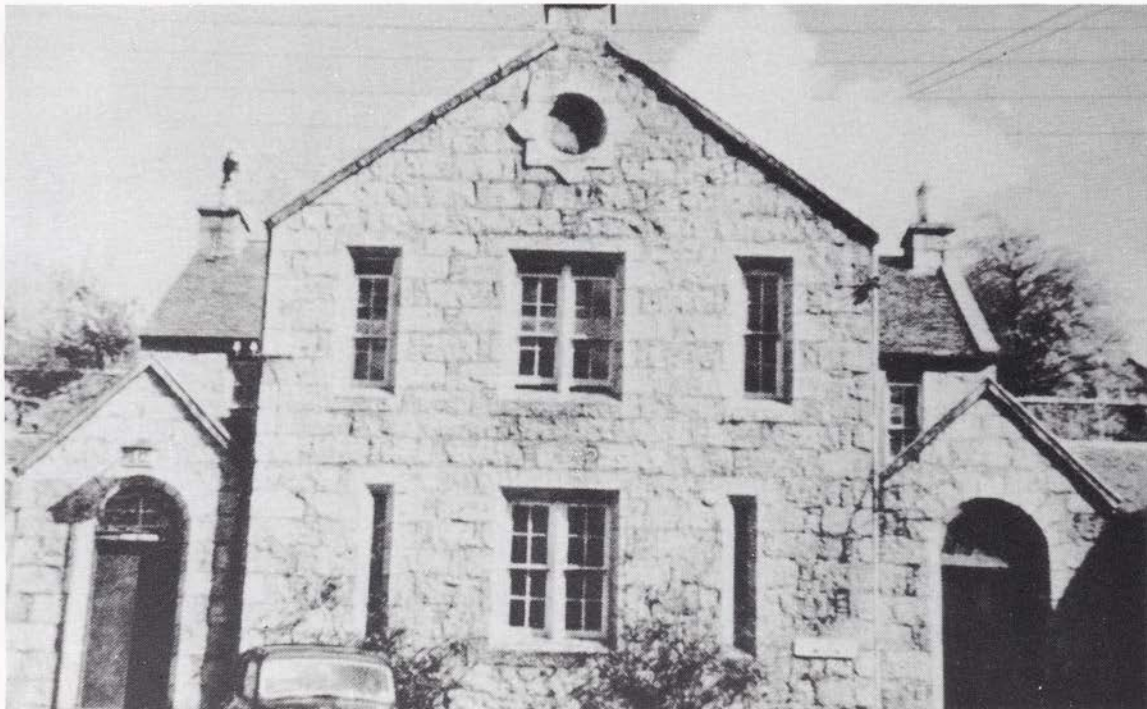
The view looking east towards the High Street C. 1890. A horse-drawn hay cart is passing the Court House, a building little changed to this day.

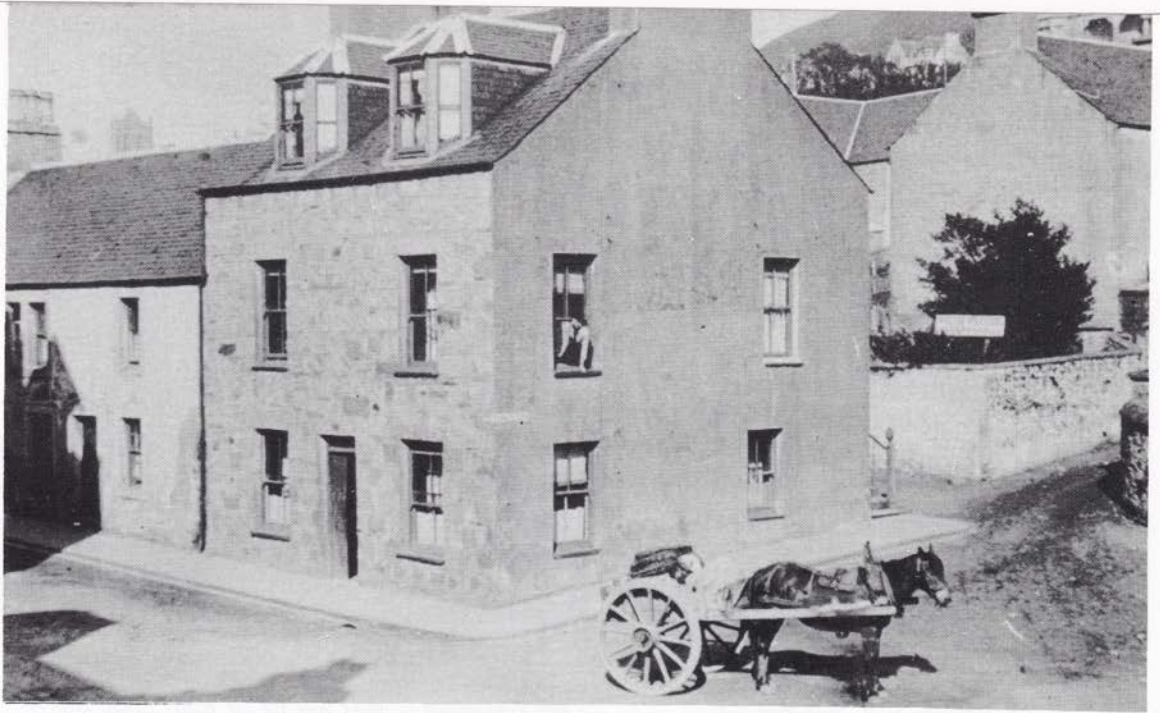




The West End in transition: the Ben Nevis Buildings, formerly home to many local families, had several temporary occupations, including its use as a tourist office. The newspaper kiosk was owned by the Donaldsons, Ron MacGlashan, Donald Fraser and John Steel. New Pier Terrace on the left was demolished to make way for the Relief Road. Ben Nevis Buildings have been replaced by the modern Maryburgh Court.

Fort William Police Station prior to its demolition C. 1960 to be superseded by the present less characterful building.





The West End C. 1890, with Ben Nevis Terrace to the rear. The notice advertises MacMaster's the Saddler.

The same site as above: Macintyre's West End Garage in the process of demolition C. 1963.





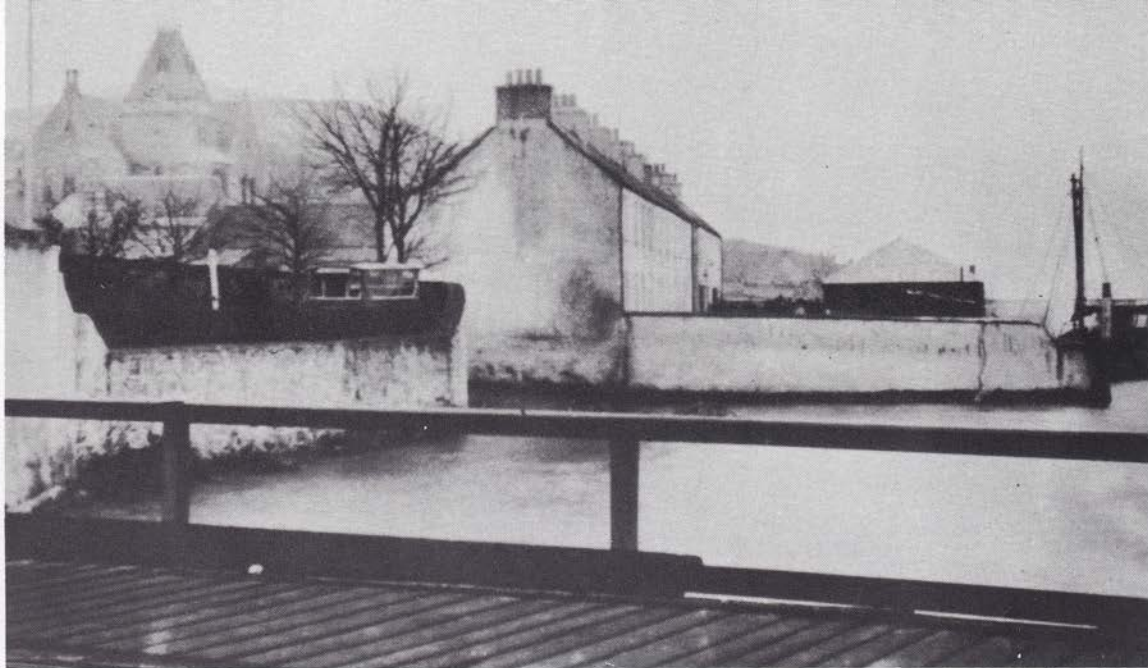
Moving up the High Street, these buildings stood on the site of the present Telephone Exchange. A local character, a lady known as "Staff in Hand", lived in the white building.



Continuing towards Gordon Square, this is the building shown on the left of the above photograph.



New Pier Terrace. The chip shop owned by Provost "Danger" Cameron was to the left of the parked van. The houses were originally built by D.P. MacDonald for his distillery workers.



The foreshore between the old and new piers at high tide in 1890. Note New Pier Terrace on the right and the Court House on the left.

The same area in 1953, showing the railway sidings. Local people will remember the tunnel to the loch behind K. K. Cameron's bakery.





West End Terrace before 1896, looking towards the Free Church on the right.



Slightly further up the street, and at a later date, MacBrayne's Garage, on the site of the present "Scottish Crafts", can be seen. Looking west from Gordon Square, MacBrayne's Garage, the Free Church and, in the foreground, MacPherson's Booking Office.

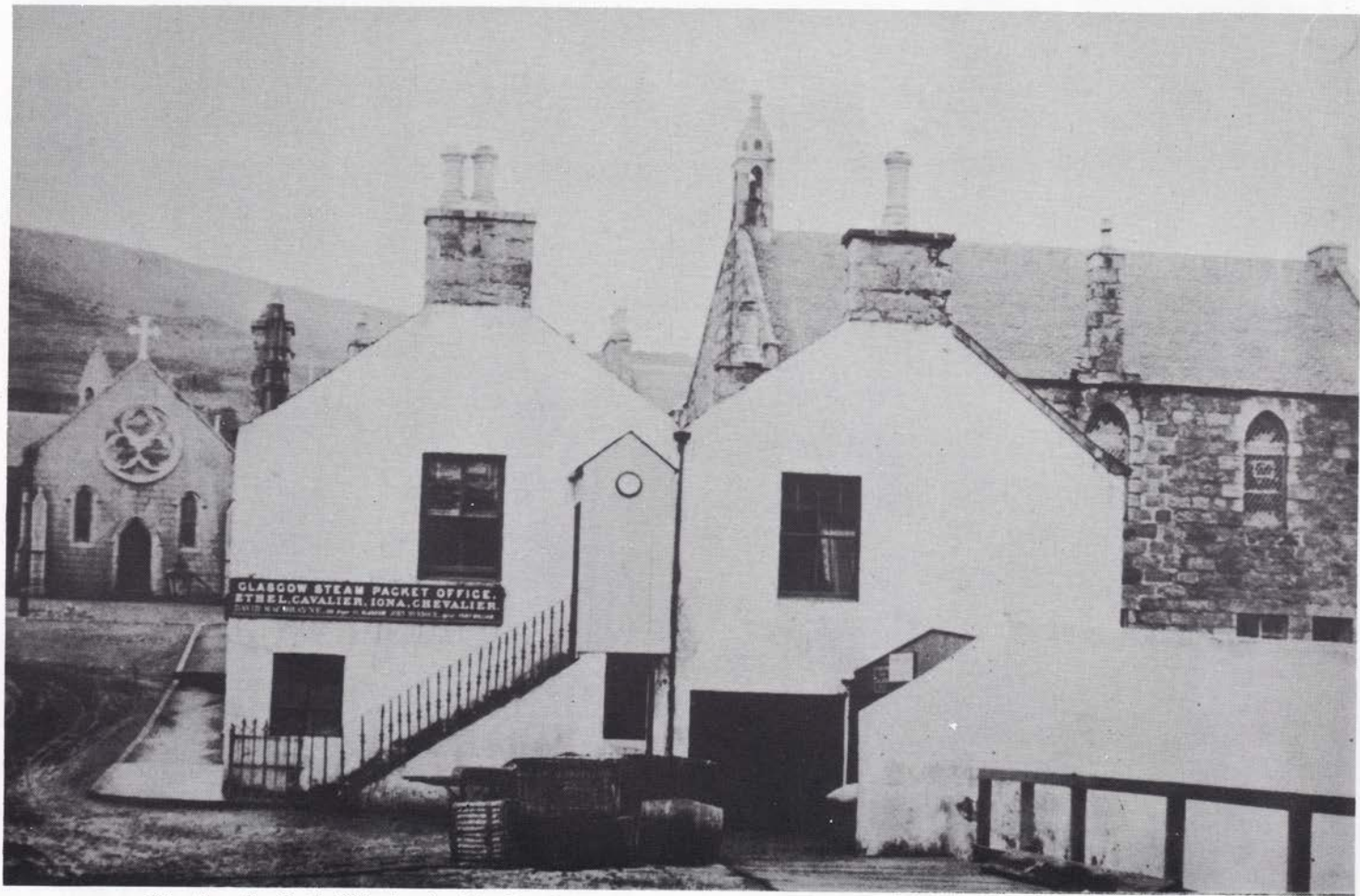




The old Station Square in the mid-forties. The former Waverley Hotel is on the left and MacPherson's Booking Office on the right. Note the elegant horse trough/drinking fountain/lamp.



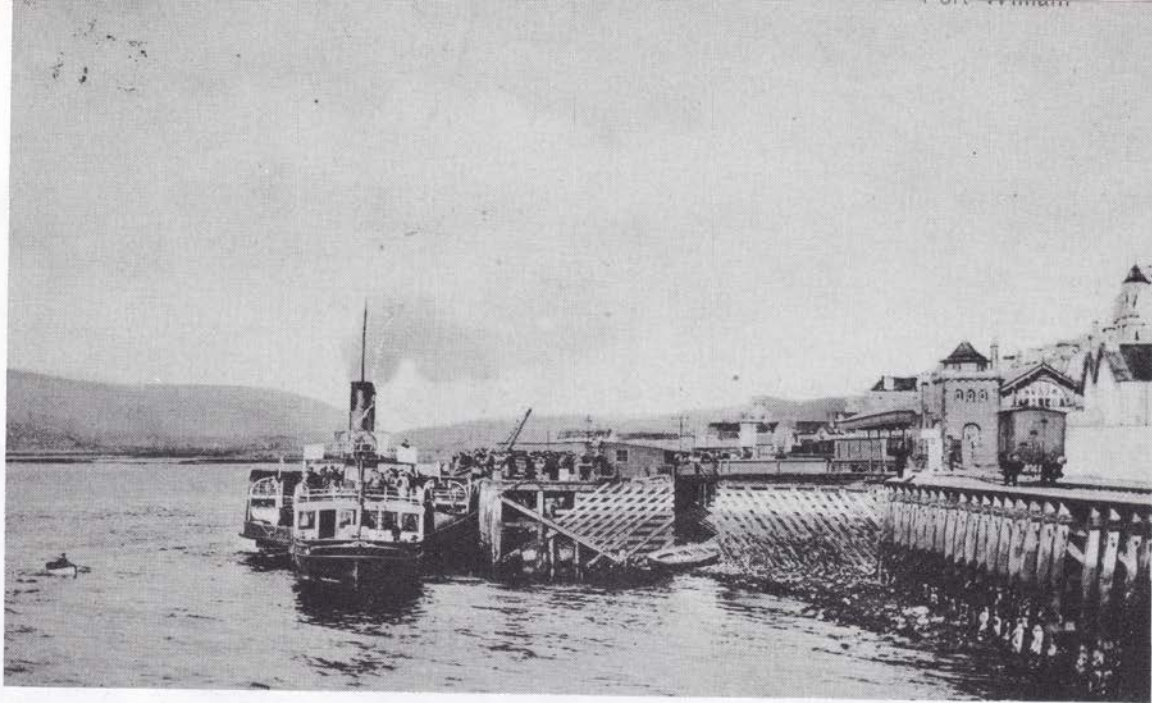
The fountain again, this time in a view looking east down the High Street prior to the building of the Grand Hotel C. 1938.



View from the pier C. 1890, showing Saint Mary's Church at the rear, MacBrayne's Office in the foreground and the Free Church on the right.

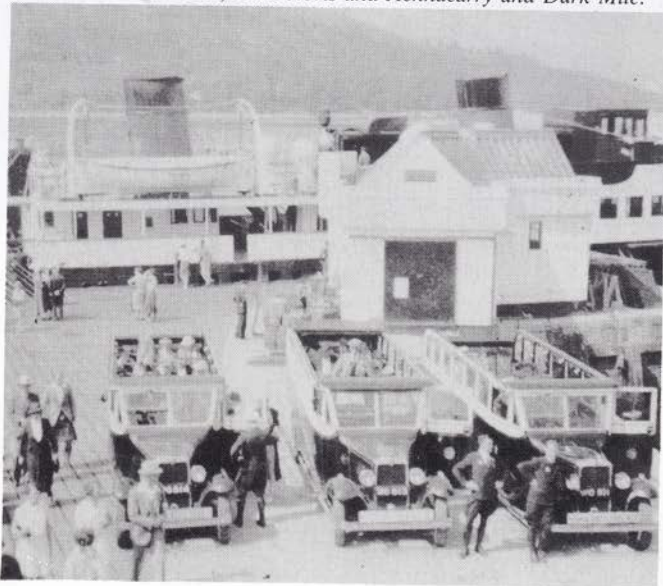


The view from the pier showing Station Square in the mid-fifties.

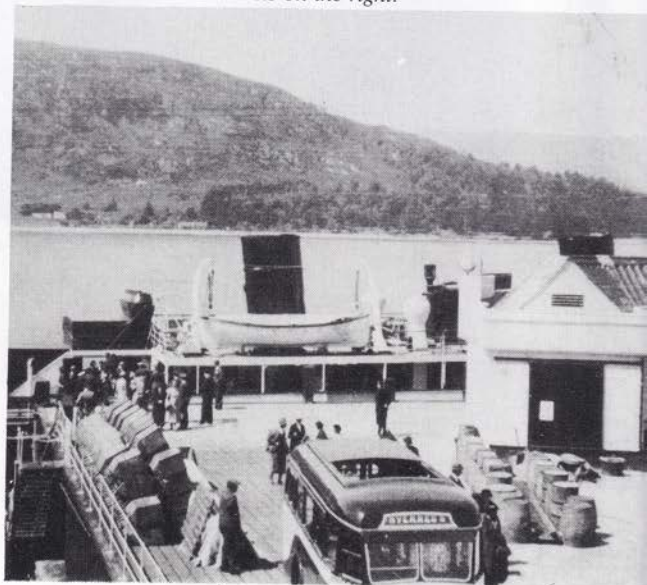


Embarkation time for the P.S. "Mountaineer" at Fort William pier in 1906.

"Loch Fyne" at the pier in the late 1930's. The charabancs' destinations are Ben Nevis Road, Glen Nevis and Achnacarry and Dark Mile.

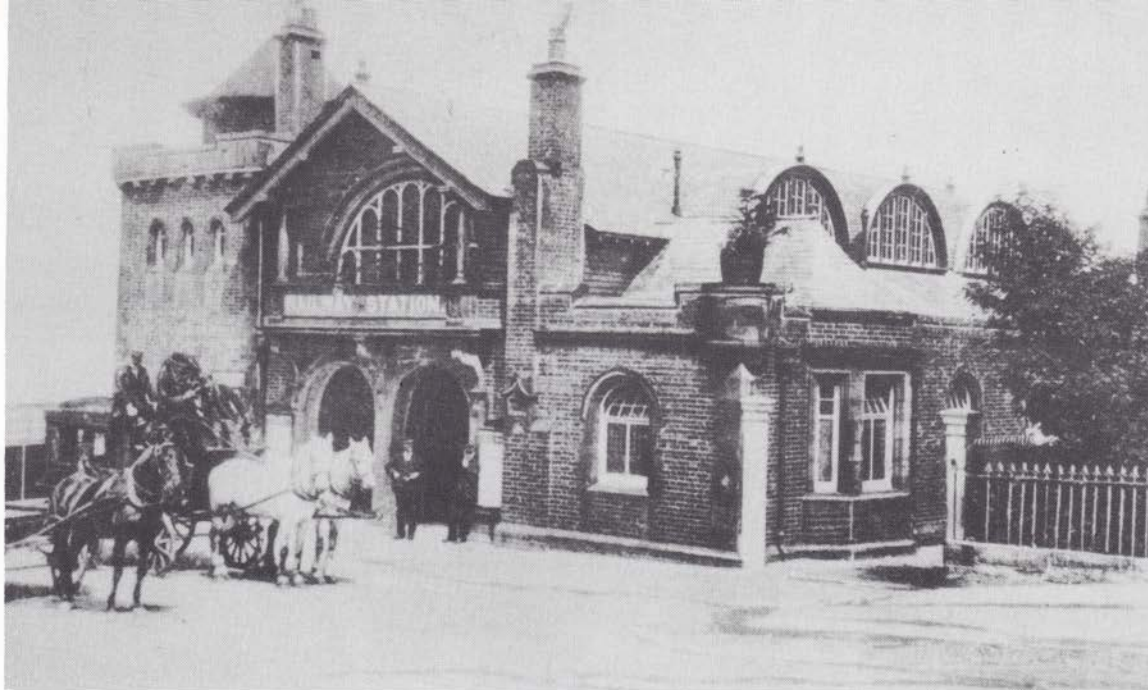


The "Loch Fyne" again, at the end of the forties. Note the herring barrels on the right.



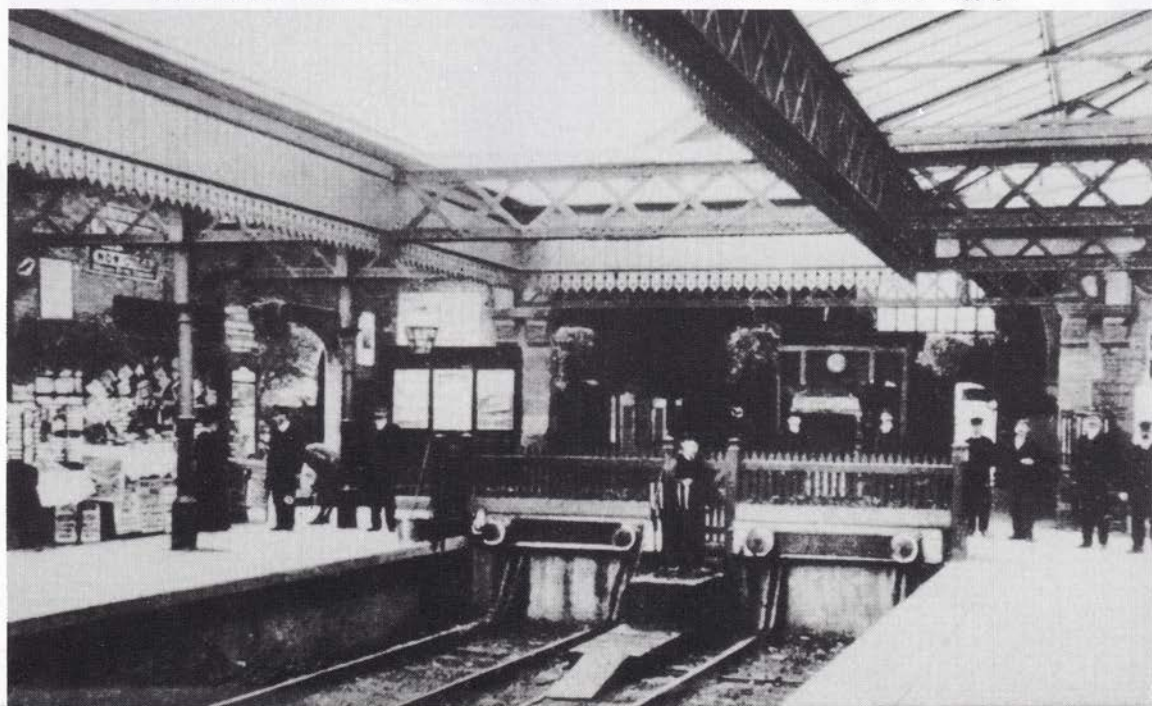


Station Square in the early 1960's. The pier is well utilised by MacBrayne's buses, while Hodge's yacht and the "Ocean Mist" are in the background.



A coach and dray stand outside Fort William railway station. The building was demolished to make way for the relief road.

Inside the station. Before the motor car became popular, the railway was the major link with the south, while the station itself was a magnet for the curious. Uniformed porters from local hotels waited to convey guests' luggage.





High Street, looking east, C. 1900. The Chevalier Hotel on the left later became the Station Hotel, and is now a gift shop. The same view approximately twenty years later. Note the Glengarry Buildings on the left and MacDonald Brothers on the right.

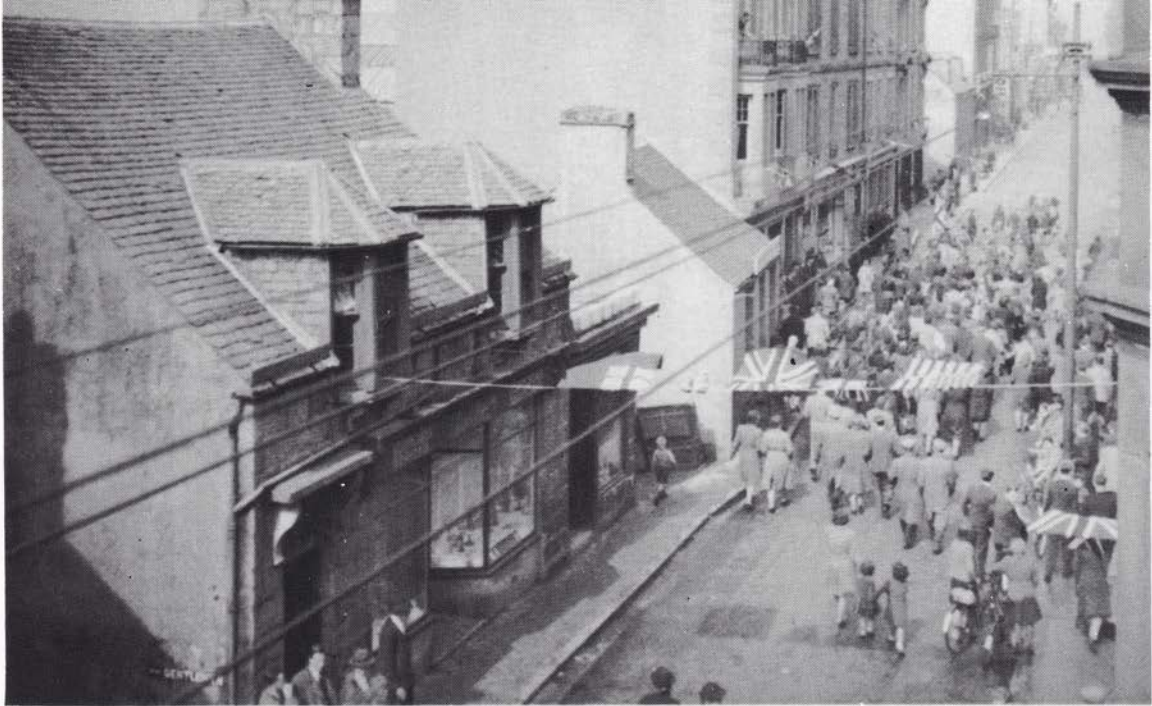




MacRae's Lane: Fraser the Baker's house with the stairway leading up, and the Central Hotel, later utilised as the Post Office, is in the background.

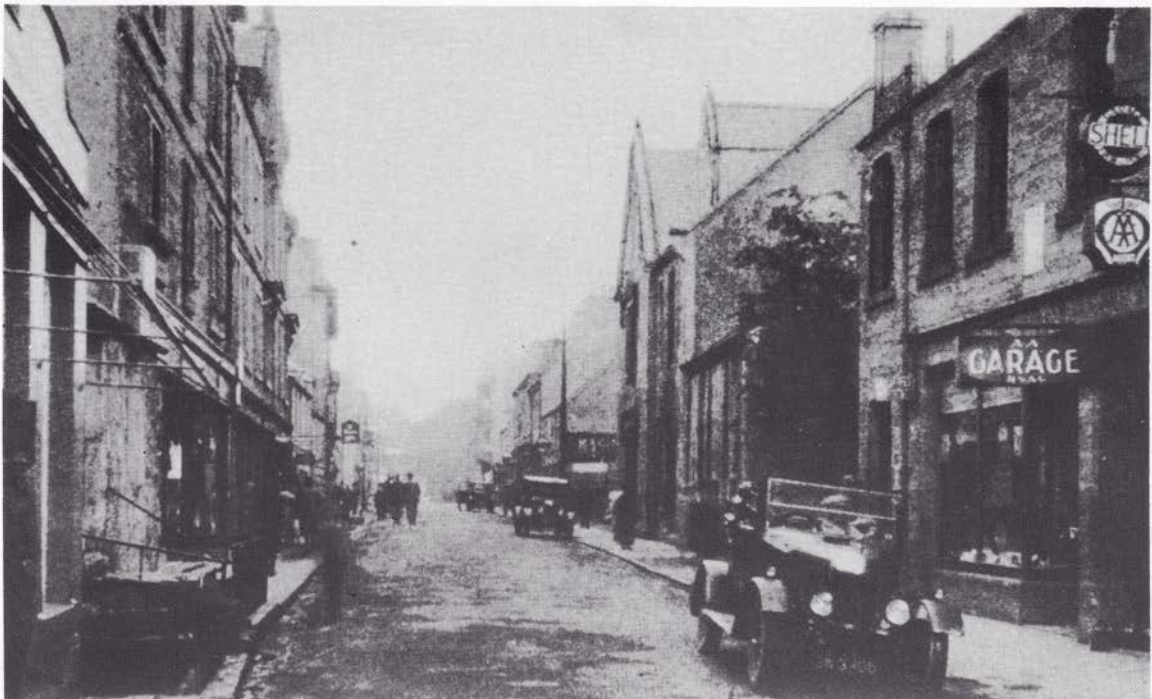
MacRae's Lane again, with Hugh MacRae's Cottage in the foreground. The steps leading to Fassifern Road can be seen in the background.





High Street C. 1950. On the left are Cassell's the newsagents, Harper's the plumbers and MacMaster's the fish-merchants.

High Street in the thirties: MacMaster's fish shop on the left and Marshall and Pearson's garage on the right.





Parade of floats passing Monzie Square C. 1935. MacIntyre's Garage can be clearly seen on the corner.

The MacIntosh Memorial Church before 1900 when the porch was built.

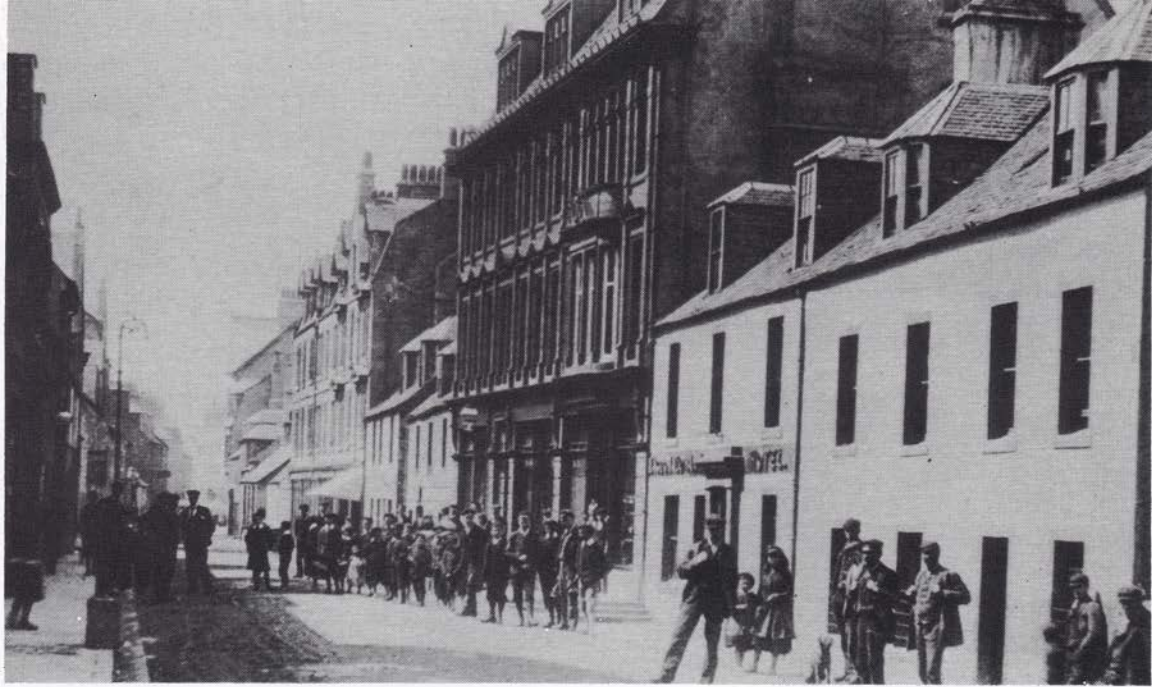




West of Monzie Square C. 1900. Recognisable on the left is the characteristic roof of the "Granite House", a temperance hotel, now a gift shop. The figure in the foreground stands in front of Morton's Bakery.

The fish restaurant stood where Linnhe Road now joins the High Street. The shops on the left are currently occupied as a restaurant.





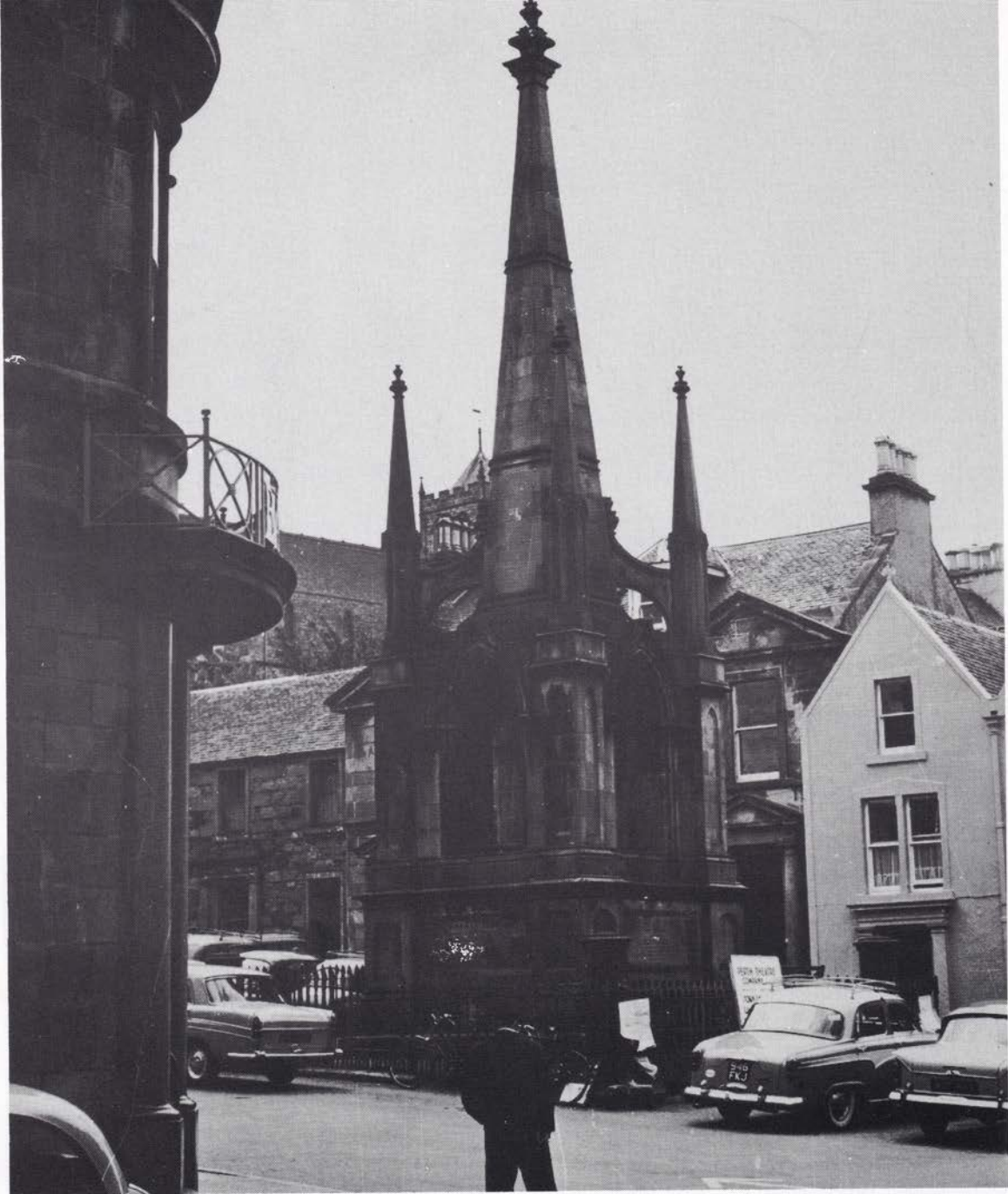
The Palace Hotel and the MacDonald Arms Hotel in the early 1900's. The latter was replaced by the Playhouse Cinema and subsequently a shopping development. A camera was a rare enough sight to attract a crowd.

A similar view in 1938. The shop with the sun shade in the "Playhouse" building was MacCabe's fruit shop.

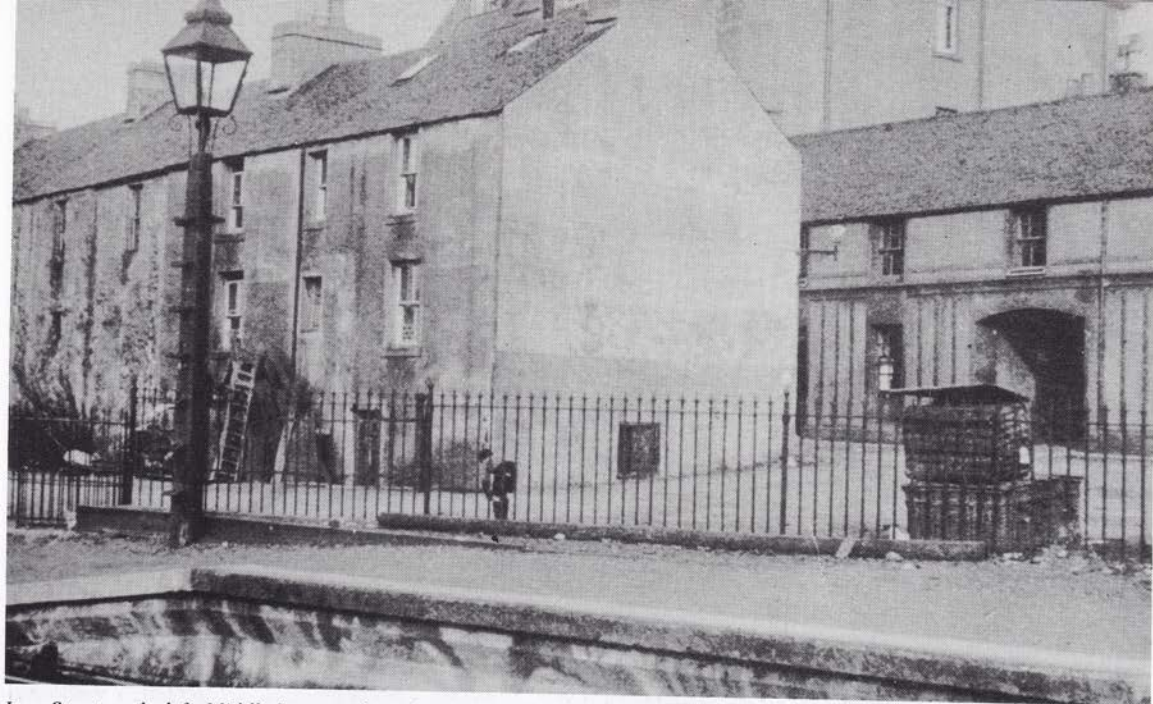




Looking east C. 1900. In front of the "MacDonald Arms" on the left, stands "Paddy" MacEwan. MacFarlane's shop is on the right, while in the background the Caledonian Hotel is clearly visible.



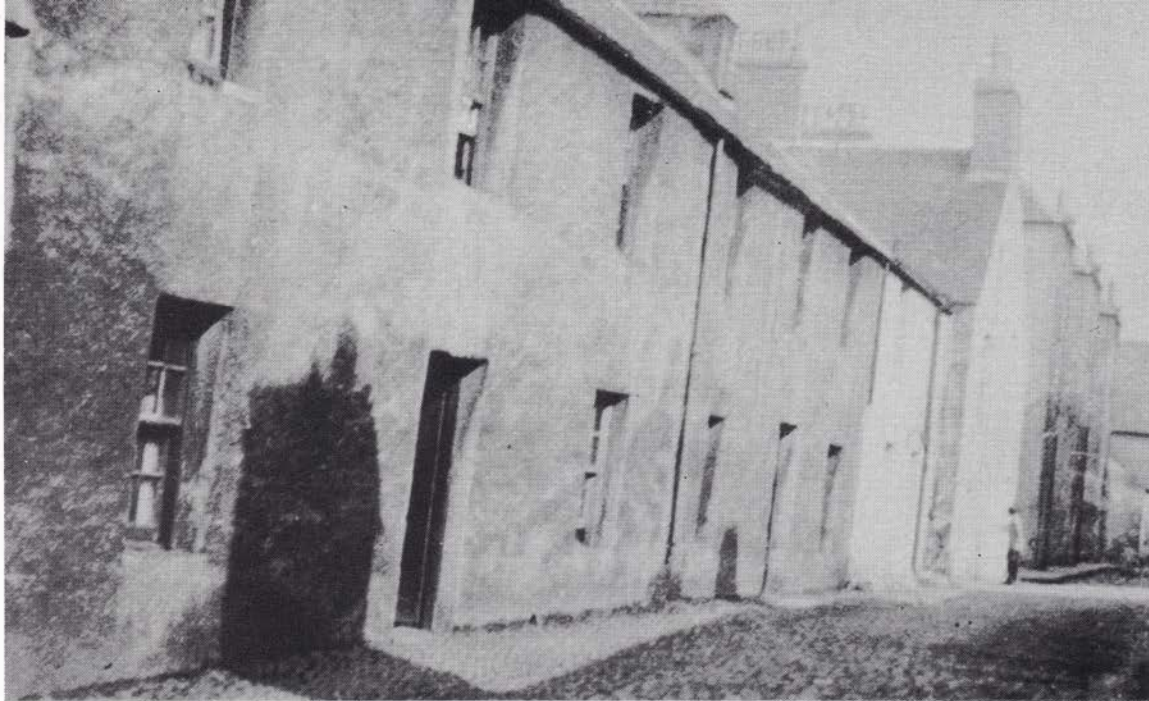
The Kennedy Monument in Cameron Square was erected in recognition of the outstanding care provided by Dr William Kennedy for sufferers of the typhoid outbreak in the latter part of the last century.



Low Street on the left, Middle Street on the right, with MacMillans' Lane leading to High Street. A "whirly gate" allowed access to the station platform.

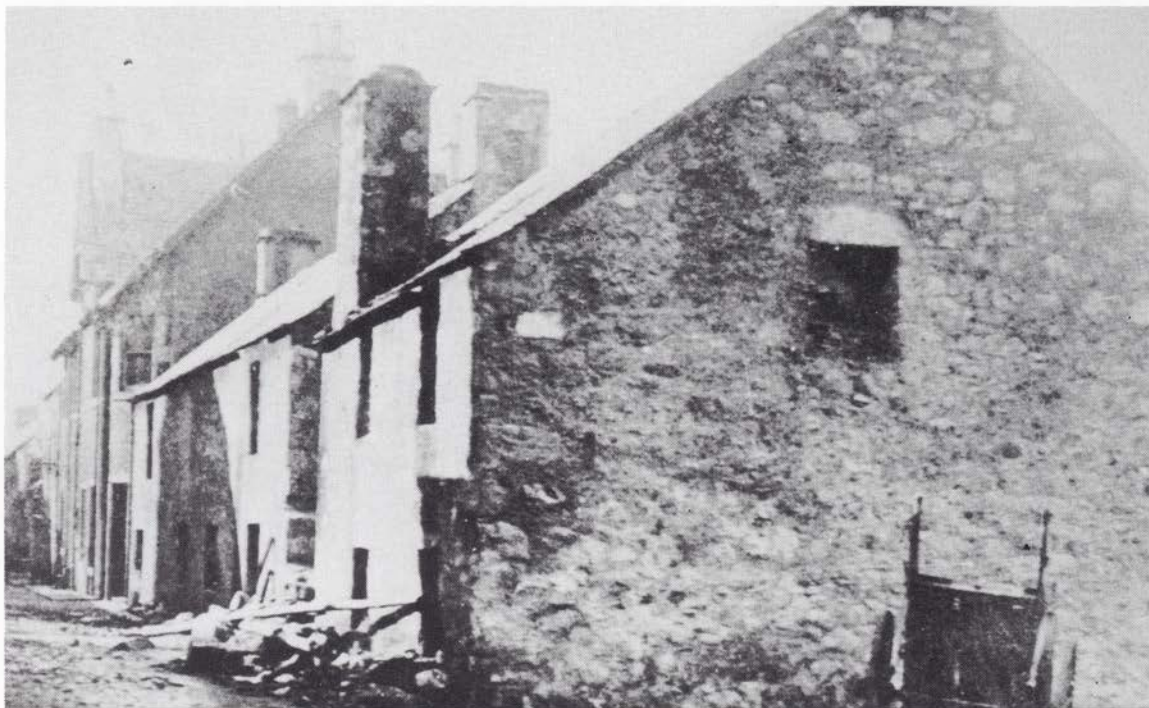
MacMillans' Lane, Middle Street on the left, looking west.

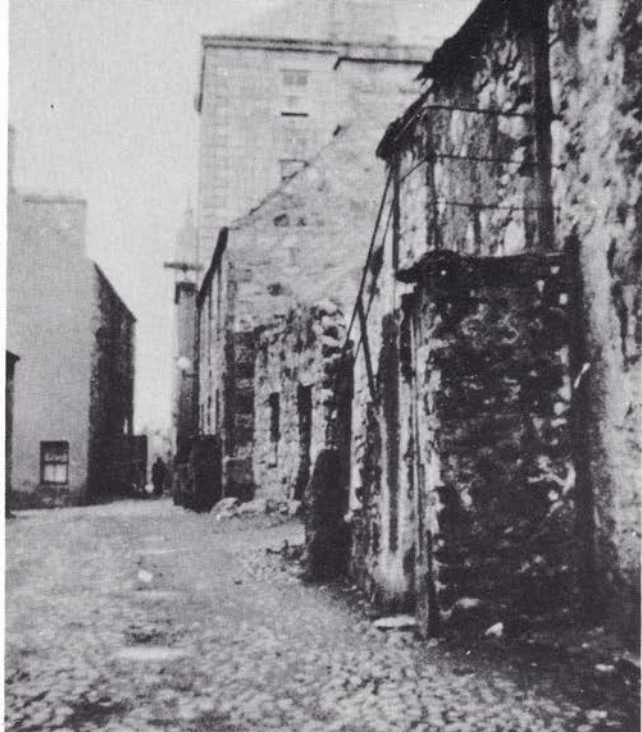




Middle Street, westward View, C. 1900.

Middle Street, C. 1910, looking towards the rear of the Argyll Hotel and Masonic Hall. Young's Smiddy is in the foreground.





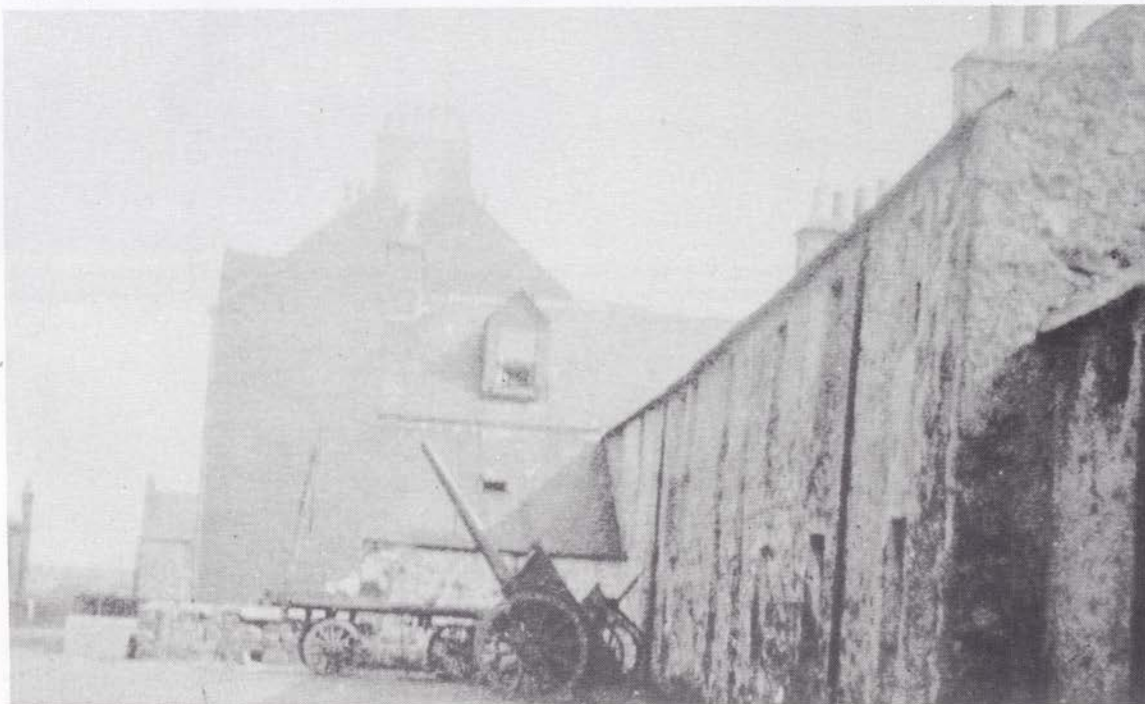
Looking east along Middle Street in the early 1900's. Clearly distinguishable on the right is the building currently occupied by "West Highland Estates".

This house, "Woodbine Cottage", stood on the shore side of the Masonic Hall.





*The Middle Street view of "Woodbine Cottage". The original Mission Hall was close by.
Rear of "Poorhouse" and "Glenspean Inn". On the left can be seen the railway signal box at the foot of Fraser Square.*



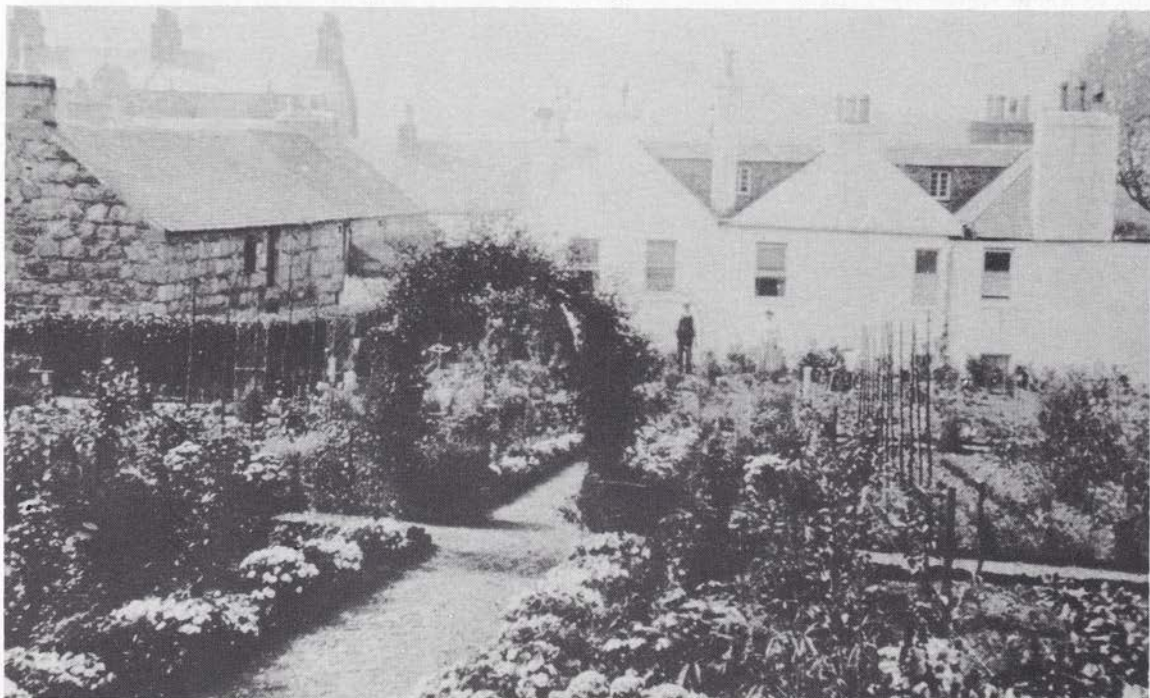


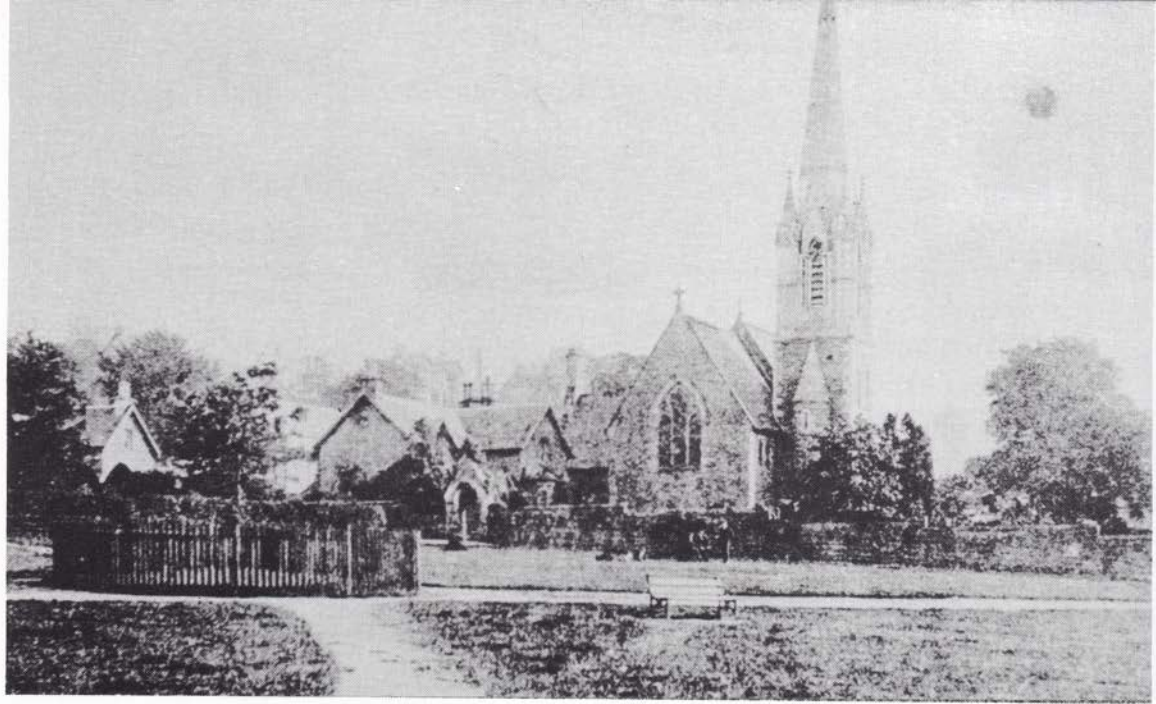
Marshall and Pearson's Garage, Fraser Square. Note the old petrol pump set into the wall by the entrance. This spacious property once hosted a mod concert. Customers may remember the penny farthing bicycle now on display in the West Highland Museum.



The High Street in 1908, before it was taken over by the motor car. E.F. Angler, jeweller, occupied one of the shops beneath the Masonic Hall, while Duncan MacKinnon's drapery warehouse was directly opposite.

This lovely garden at the rear of the National (now the Royal) Bank was carefully tended by Mr MacNiven.





St Andrew's Episcopal Church and Parade C. 1920. Note the Old Rectory on the left.

High Street in the twenties. The distinctive bank building (now the Royal Bank) is on the left and the Argyll Hotel on the right.





A similar view to the previous one, but twenty years later. Marshall and Pearson's Petrol Station and the Trustee Savings Bank occupy the right foreground.

Tweeddale Gardens, home to many railway workers, and the Parade C. 1960. The old weighbridge can be identified on the right. Only the putting green still remains.



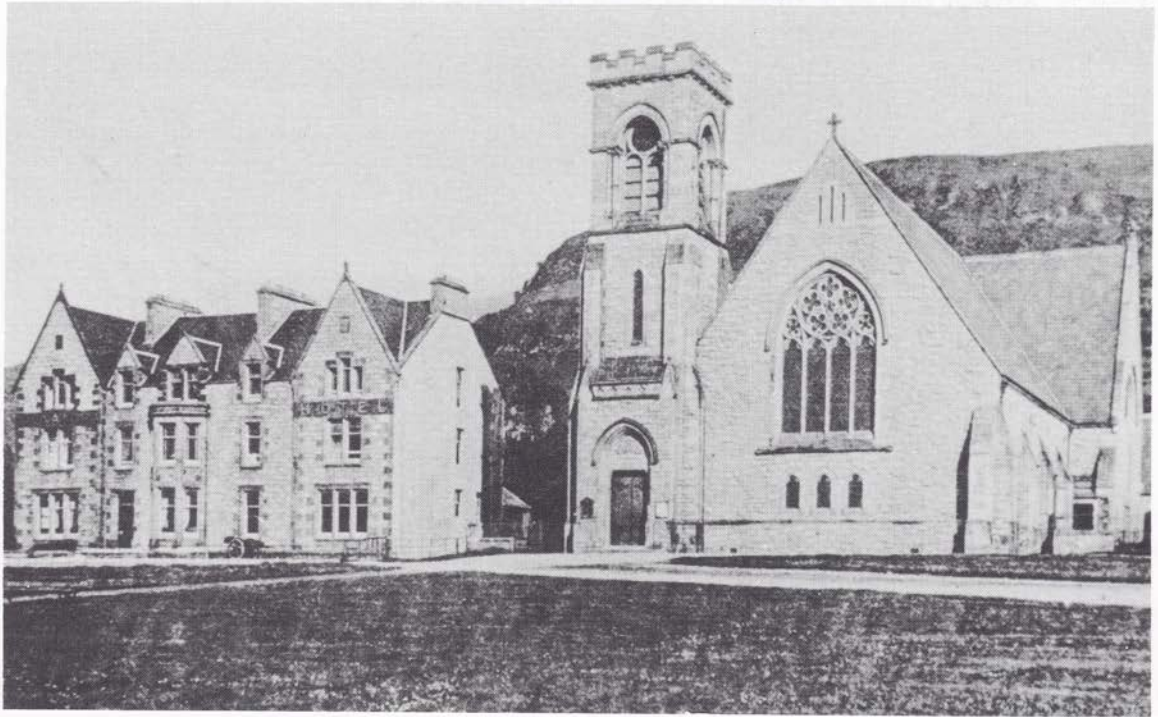


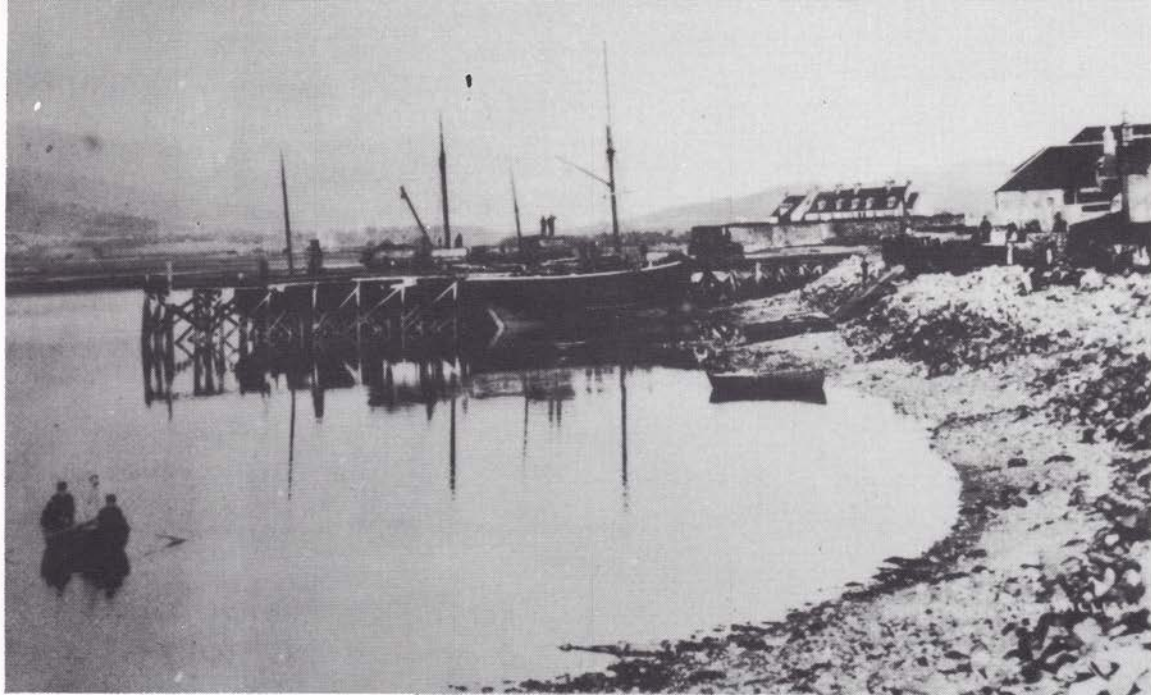
A general view of the East End, showing the Co-operative shops, dairy, cafe, plumbing business, railway goods yard, Parade Garage and the "Hanging Tree". Doubtless this will trigger many memories: who can still remember their "divi number"?



Pipe Band on parade in the early fifties.

Alexandra Hotel and Duncansburgh Church before 1910. This was before the statues were erected.

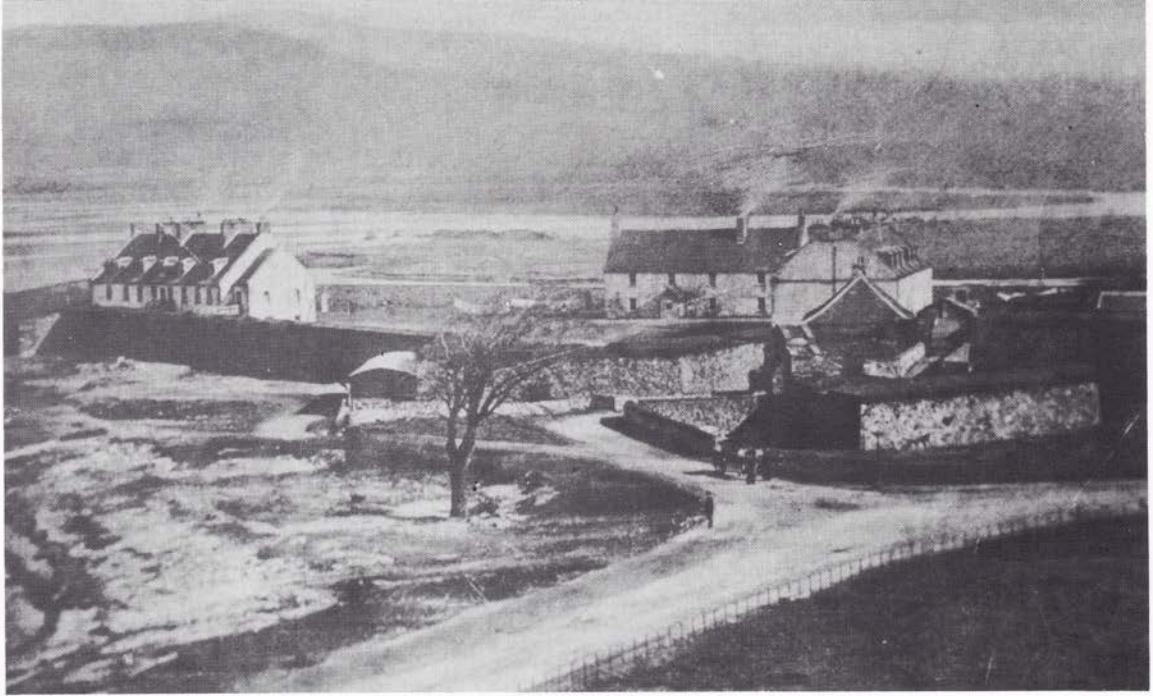




The East Pier and the Old Fort. The pier was used for bringing in materials for the construction of the railway.

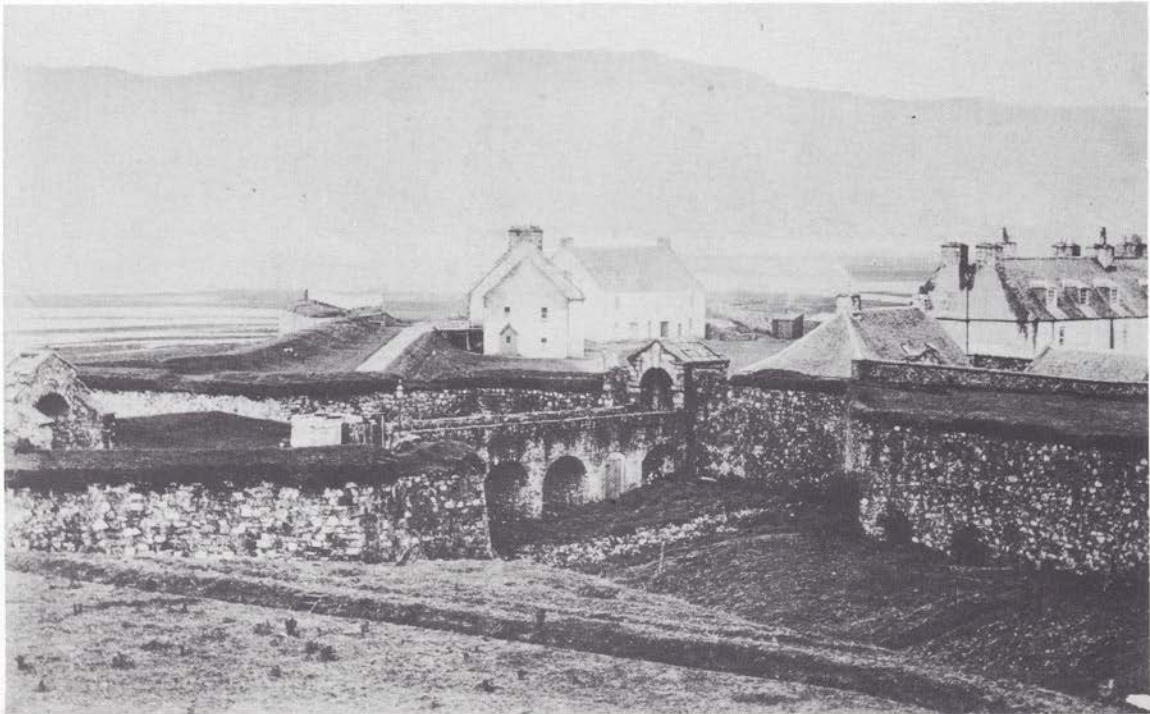
The foreshore by the fort, approximately 1892, before the coming of the railway. Three churches are clearly visible, as are the Alexandra Hotel and St Andrew's Choir School. The "Hanging Tree" is in the middle foreground.





The Old Fort, Fort William.

Another view of the fort, demolished to make way for the railway. What a tourist attraction it would be today.





Houses within the Fort, which were still occupied within living memory.

Belford Road from the Alexandra Hotel. The garden of Invernevis House, later the convent, is on the right, and the monument to Ewan Maclachlan in the Craigs can be identified.

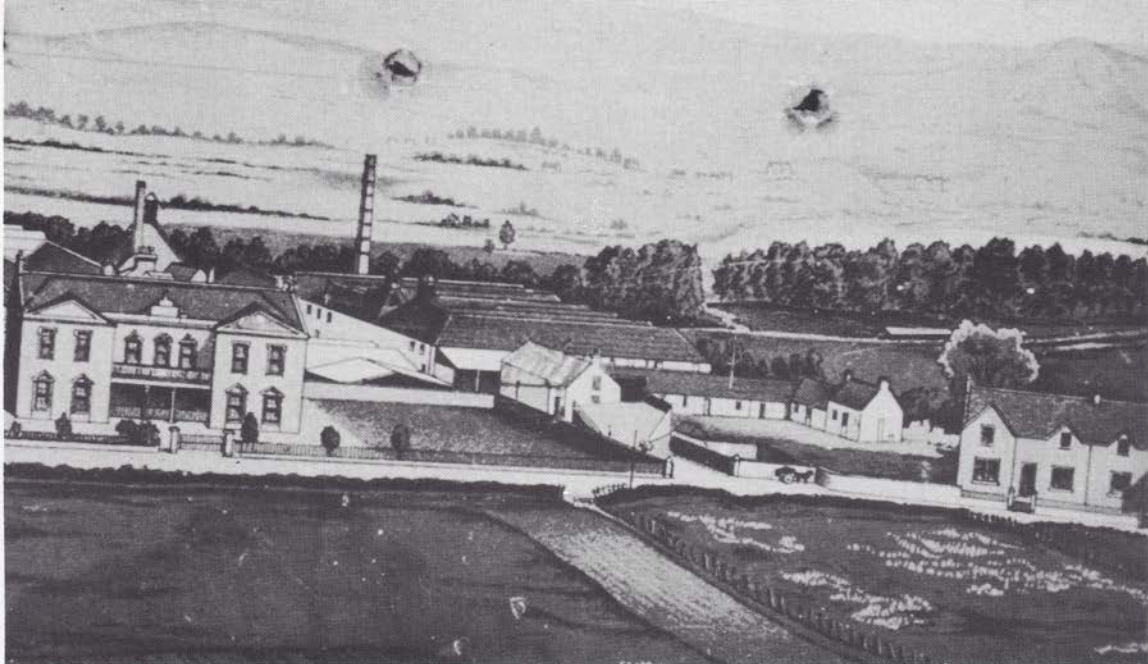




Belhaven, the "Poorhouse", demolished to accommodate the Belhaven Ward of the Belford Hospital.

The original Belford Hospital, built in 1863 and demolished just over a hundred years later to be replaced by Invernevis Home for the Elderly.





A drawing of the old Belford Hospital and distillery warehouses, C. 1890. Distillery cottages and "Dalnahaine" are on the right, while Victoria Park in the foreground stretches to the site of the present Inverlochty Place.

A very early view of Nevis Bank Hotel.

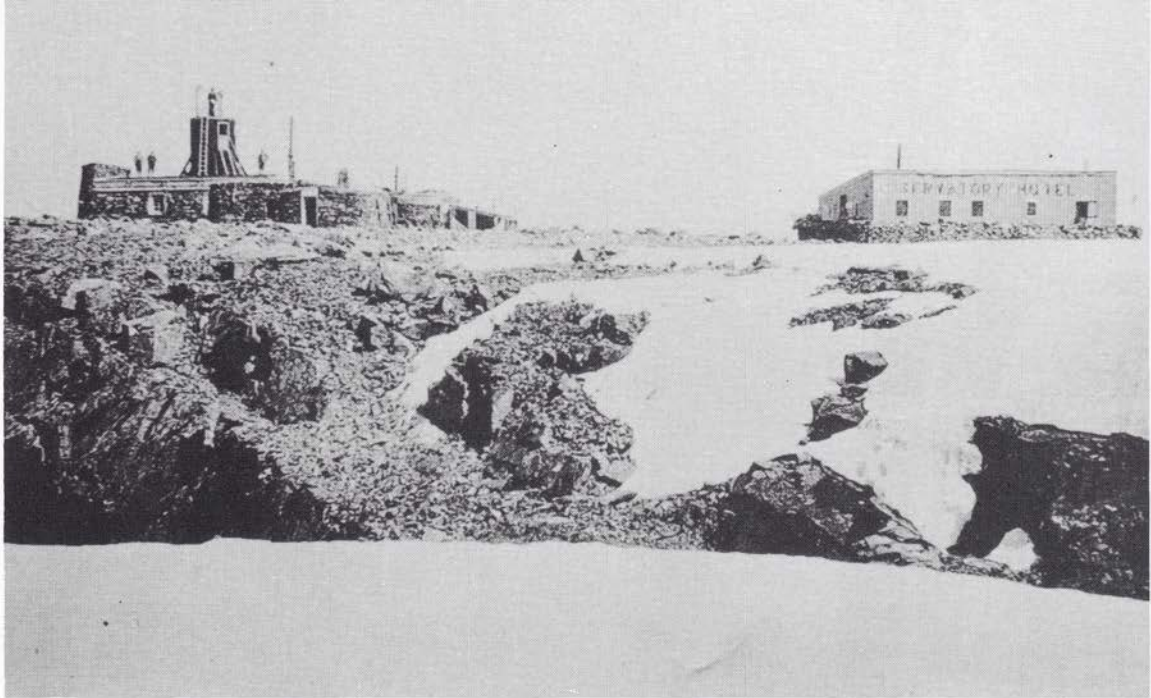




The entrance to Glen Nevis and Toll House at the turn of the century. The two pillars in the foreground would have supported the gate or chain when Glen Nevis was a toll road.

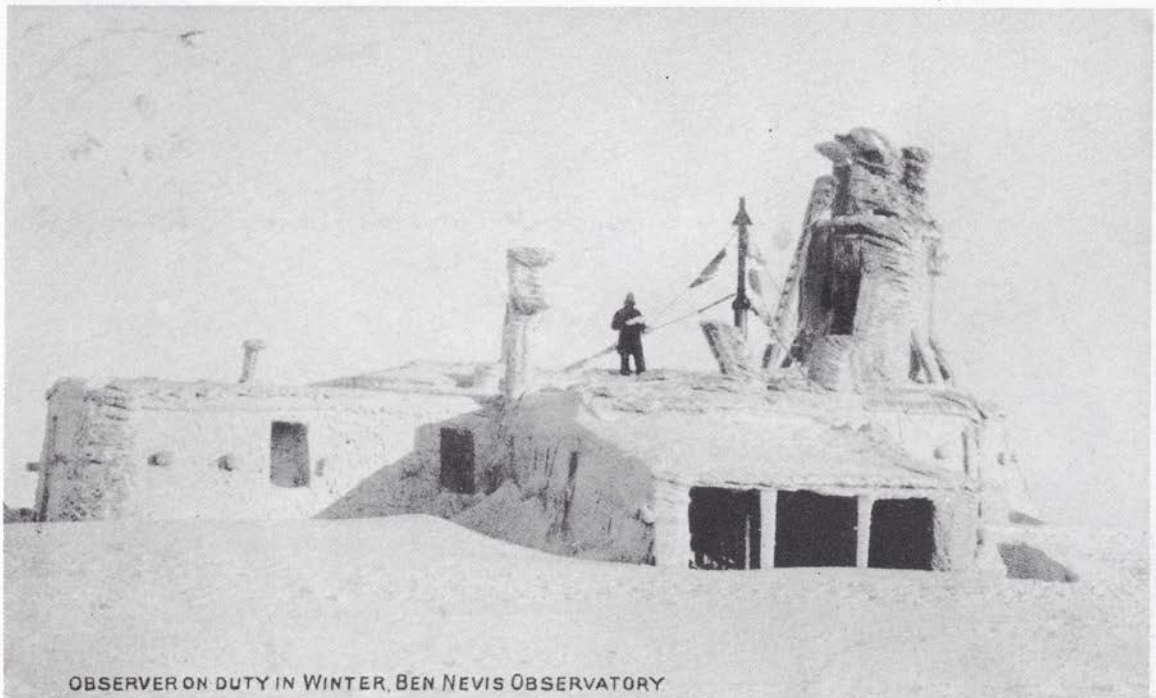
The original youth hostel in Glen Nevis, destroyed by fire approximately 1938.



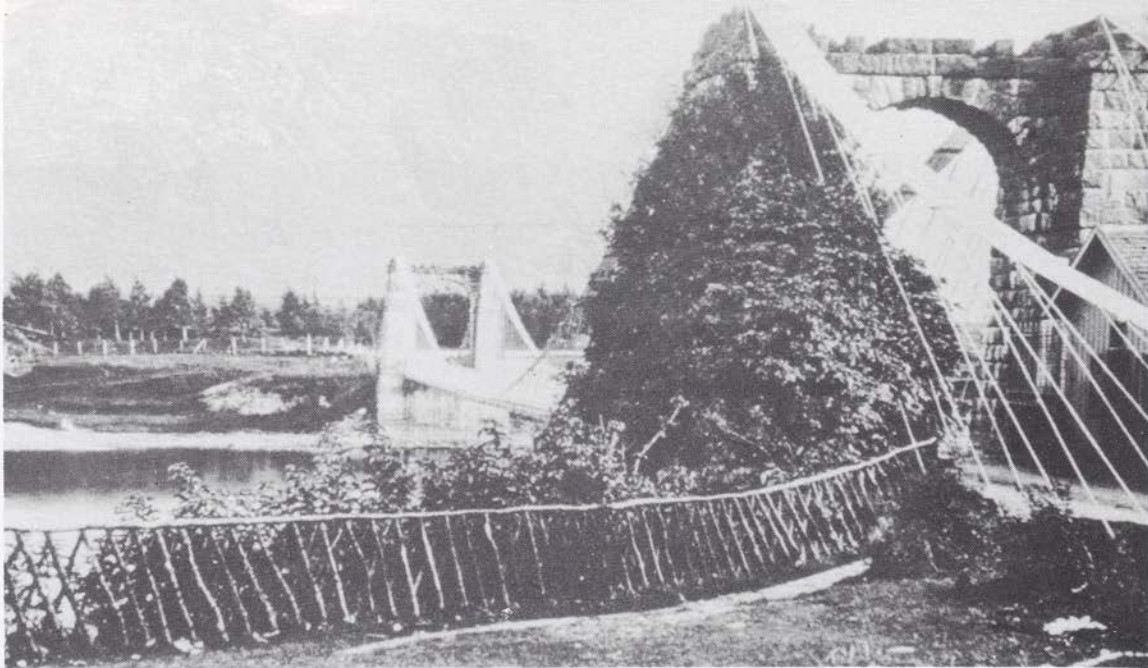


The observatory and hotel on the summit of Ben Nevis. The observatory was opened in October, 1883 and was closed down in 1904. The hotel, which was built of wood, continued for a short time after, but then it, too, was abandoned.

A spectacular view of the hostile conditions under which the observers worked on Britain's highest mountain.



OBSERVER ON DUTY IN WINTER, BEN NEVIS OBSERVATORY



The suspension bridge over the River Lochy C. 1900. The parapets were retained when the bridge was later replaced by a concrete structure. Drivers' reversing skills were often put to the test on the single carriageway.

Lochy Bridge and Ben Nevis. The bridge toll house can be seen on the right and Ben Nevis Distillery on the left.



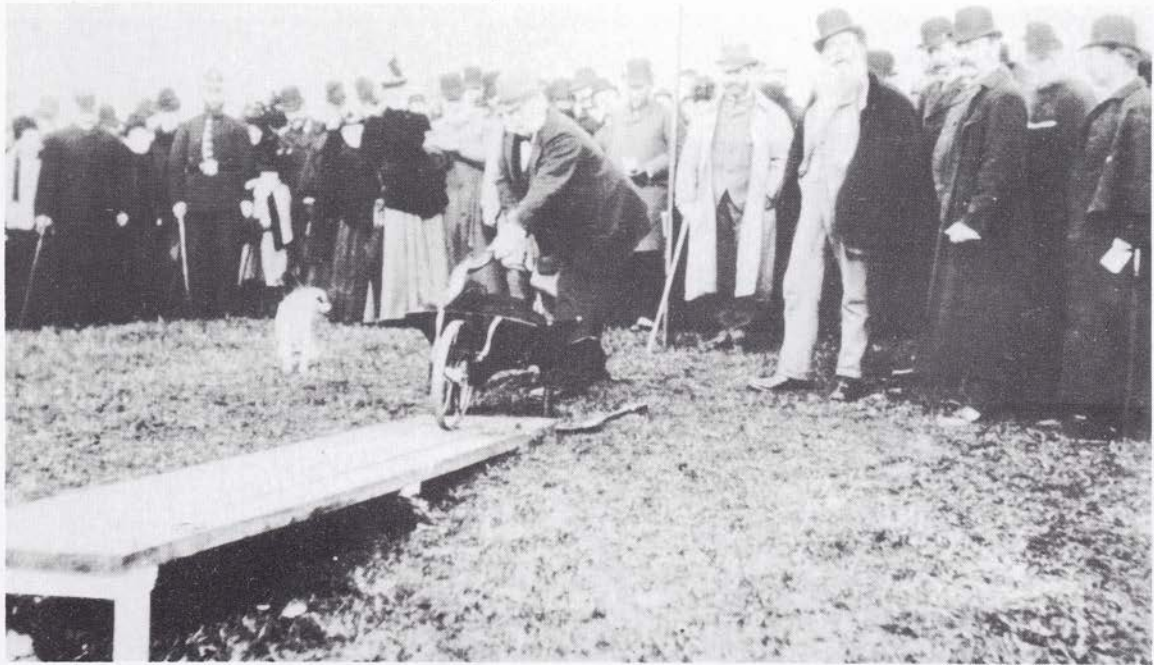


Aerial view of Claggan "prefabs" C. 1950.



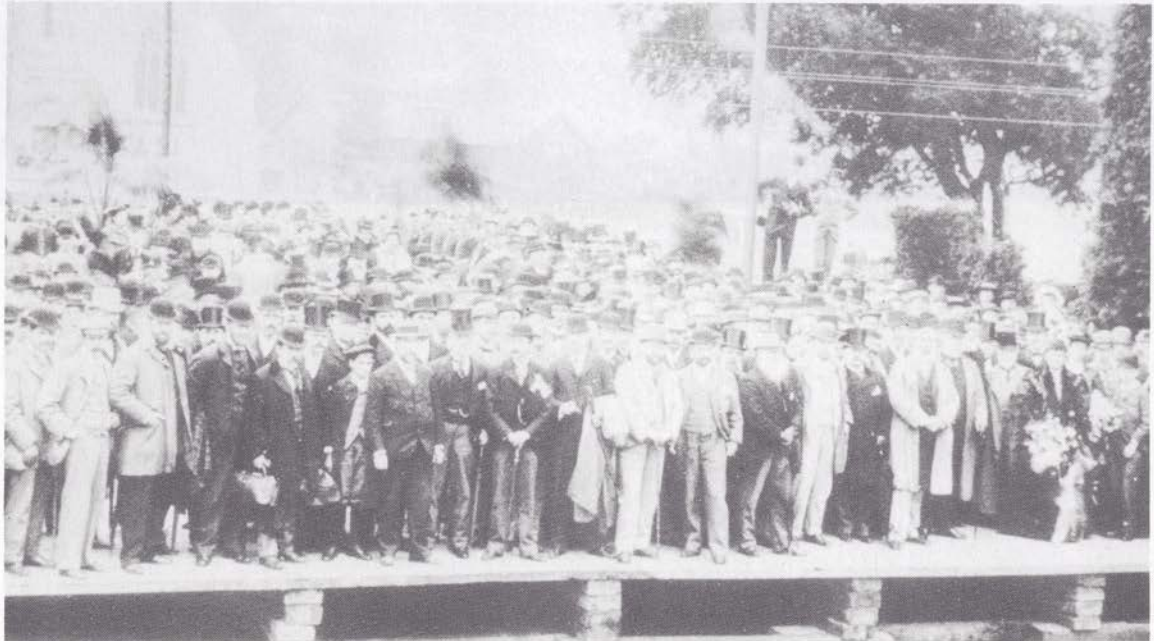
Claggan in 1954. The "prefabs" are still there, and the fire station is under construction.

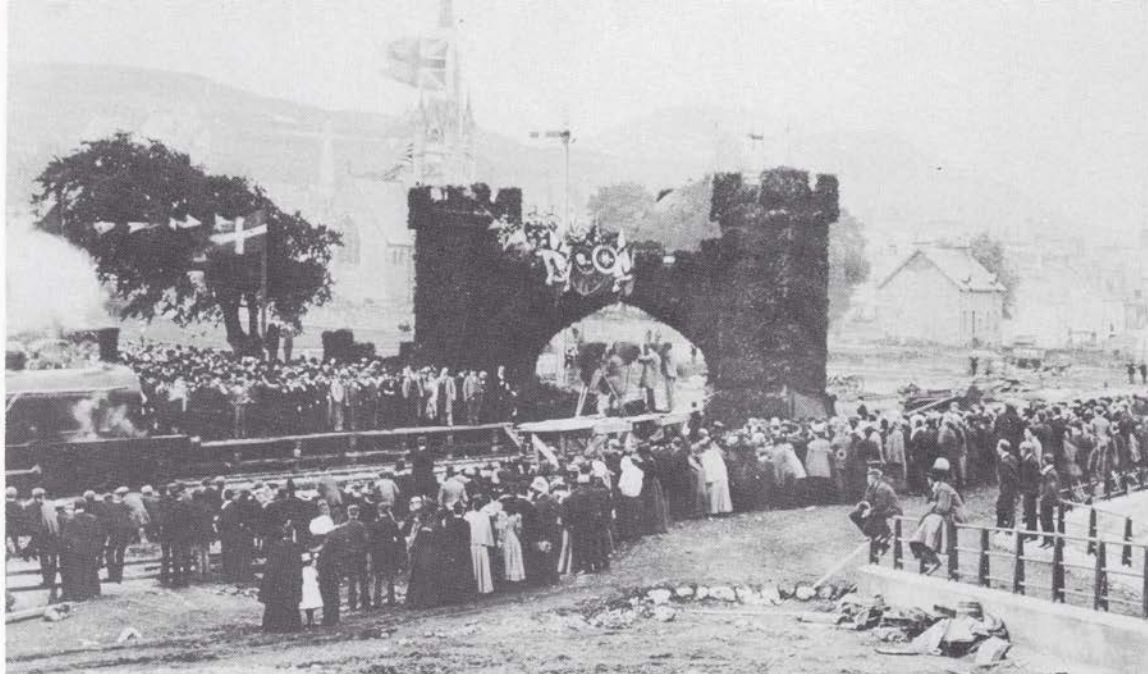
Special Events



1889: In October 1889, opposite the Nevis Distillery, Lord Abinger cut the first sod to start the building of the West Highland Railway. The group includes Cameron of Lochiel and the chief engineer of Lucas and Aird.

1894: Crowds assembled on a platform near Tweeddale Gardens to welcome the first train to Fort William.





August 11th 1894: The first train arriving at the ceremonial arch. Lady Tweeddale turned a golden key in the gate, and the West Highland Railway was officially opened.

This momentous occasion would appear to have been at the end of the last century. It is believed to be the funeral of D.P. MacDonald of Invernevis Distillery and one of the burgh's first commissioners.





1897: Cameron Volunteers firing a salute in the Town Park during celebrations of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. It was obviously a very wet day.

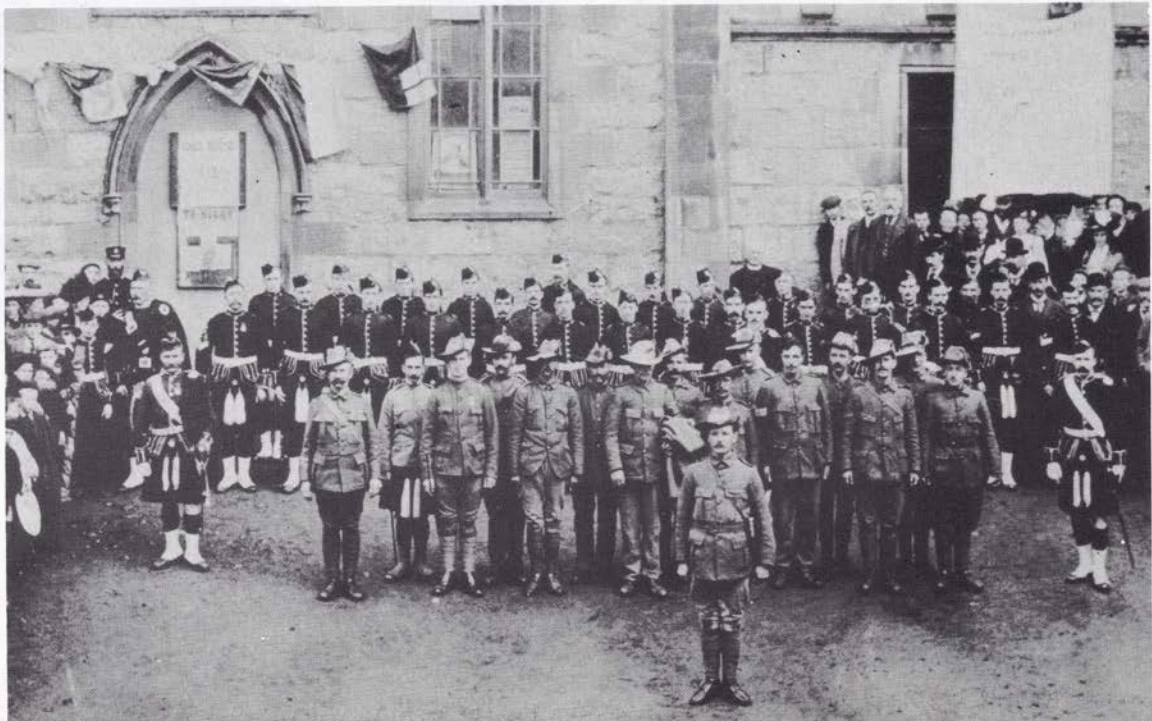
The Volunteers climbed Ben Nevis to fire another salute as part of the celebrations.

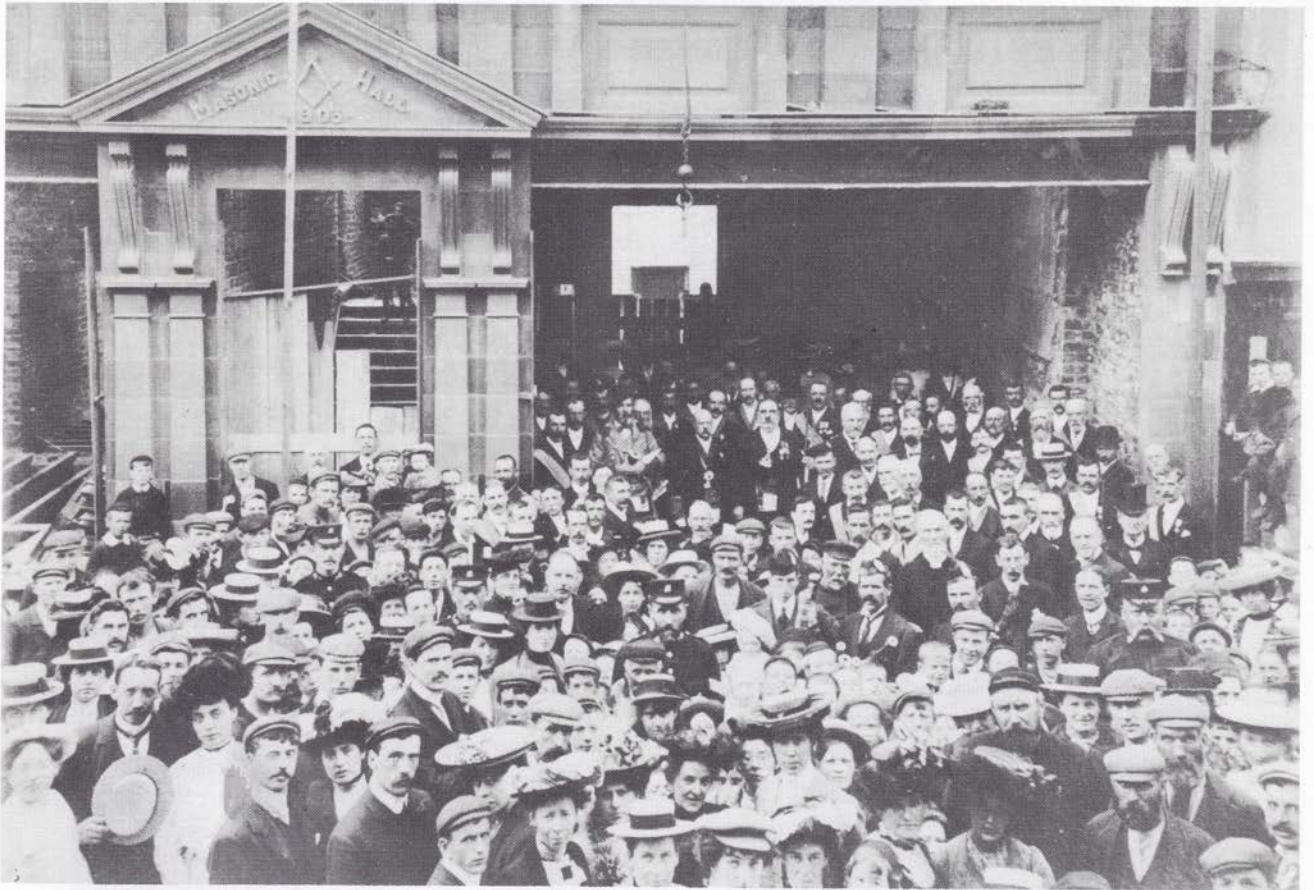




1901: Lovat Scouts and Cameron Volunteers on their return from the Boer War. They are swamped by the crowd as they turn into Cameron Square.

On parade outside the Town Hall. Constable John Herd is on the left and Sergeant MacInnes is at the back.



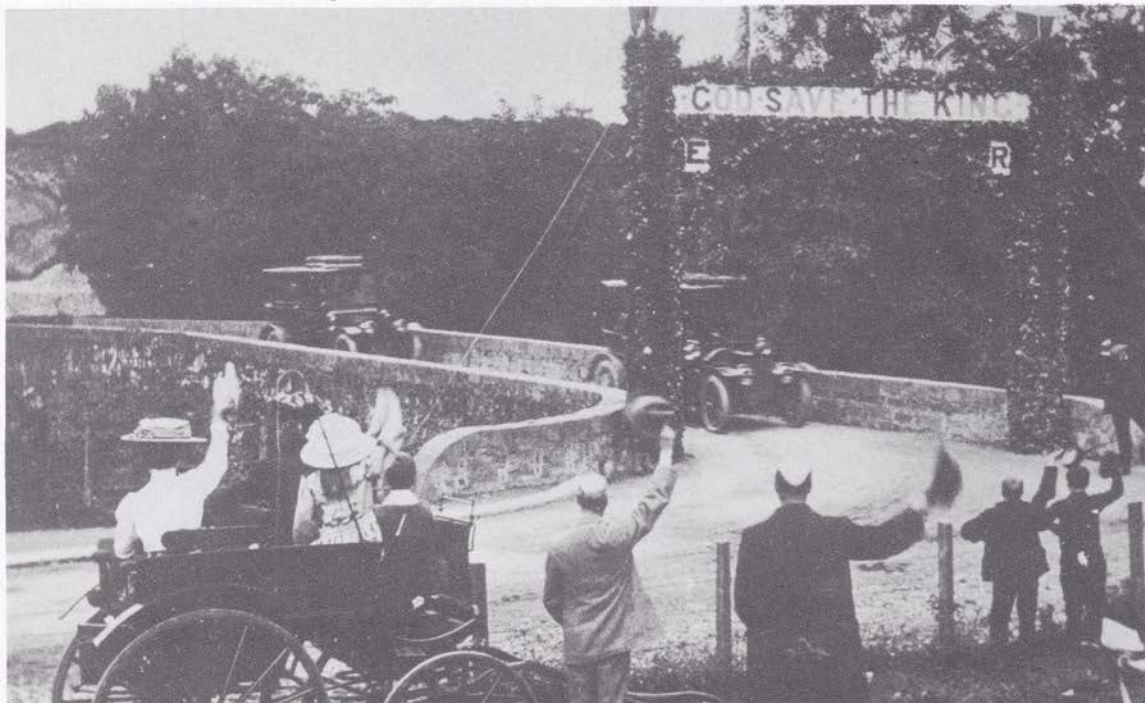


1904: Re-dedication of the Masonic Hall, conducted by Sir George MacPherson Grant, younger, of Ballindalloch. The Master of the Lodge, William Thompson, with moustache and chain, is in the middle of the group.



1905: Donald Cameron, 12th of Lochiel, returning home after his wedding to Lady Hermione. The dog is obviously very impressed.

1909: King Edward VIIth crossing Nevis Bridge on his way to Mamore.

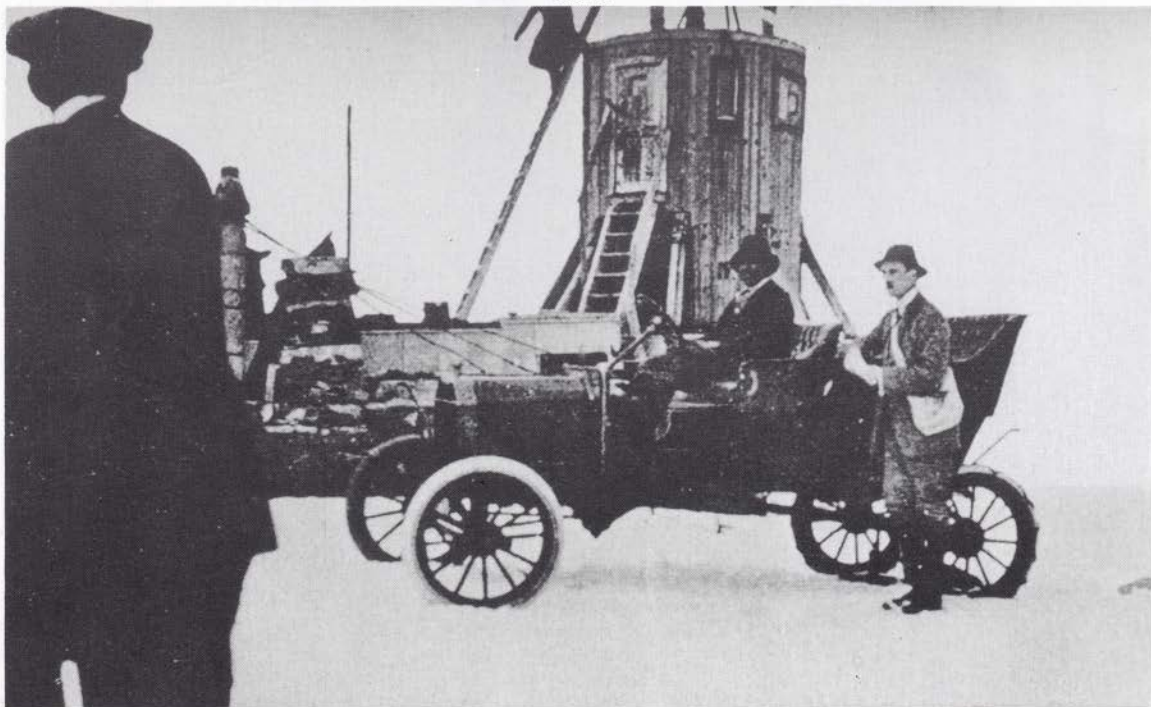




Motor Car Starting
for Ben Nevis

1911: Model "T" Ford in Cameron Square prior to the ascent of Ben Nevis.

1911: Henry Alexander at the summit of Ben Nevis in his Model "T". The ascent took five days and the descent two and a half hours.





Peace celebrations at the end of the First World War. The Volunteer Arms Bar is on the right.

1929: The visit of the Duke of York (later King George VI) to Inverlochy. In this group is Murray Morrison, founder of the British Aluminium Company.





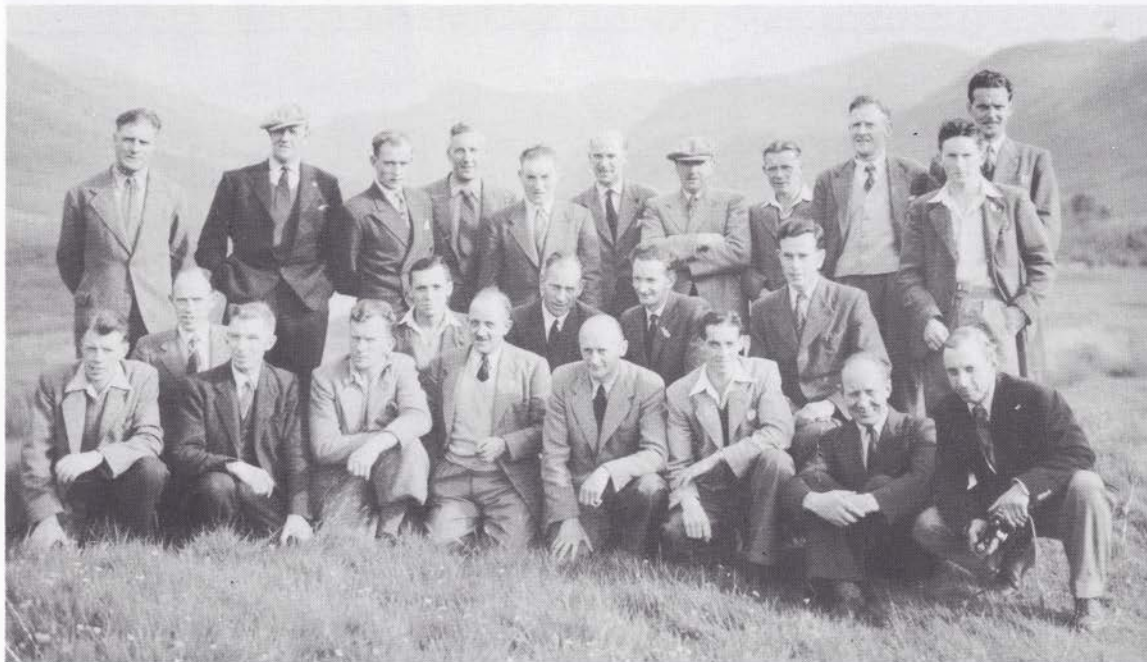
1936: In April 1936, Mayor Pow of Fort William, Ontario, led a delegation from Canada to lay a wreath at Culloden. Provost MacDonald led the Lochaber contingent, which included ex-Provost Shaw, Baillie Gardner, George Spence (Depute Town Clerk) and Councillors Cameron, Fraser, Blair and Mrs Halse.

1941: Peter Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand, is welcomed to Fort William by Provost Lawrie Blair on the steps of the West End Hotel.





1951: Festival of Britain parade of floats approaching the Parade Garage.



1953: Bonfire party on Meall an-t-Suidhe to celebrate the Queen's Coronation. Back Row: Jock MacPherson, Alex MacDonald, Davie Love, Bobby Berger, Ronnie MacPherson, Mr Clegg, Duncan Cameron, Jimmy Lorimer, Jock Sutherland, Bobby Corson, Lachie MacLeod. Front: Roddie MacKenzie, Hector MacRae, Alfred Waddington, James Wilson, Eddie Archibald, Dinty More, Sandy MacPherson, Bob Rodin, Bob Barrett, Iain MacKinnon, Murdo MacKay, Jimmy Wynne, George Scott.



A presentation gavel from Fort William, Inverness-shire to Fort William, Ontario is entrusted to Mr Dow, Town Clerk, who made the presentation on his visit to Canada in 1954.

1958: Visit of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, who were greeted by Lord MacDonald of Sleat. Note MacBrayne's Garage, K.K.'s Restaurant and New Pier Terrace in the background.





1975: Firemen attend the conflagration at the Town Hall, which was irreparably damaged, never to be replaced.

1992: Fort William shinty team, triumphant after winning the Camanachd Cup in Glasgow, the first time this had been achieved in the ninety-nine year history of the club.

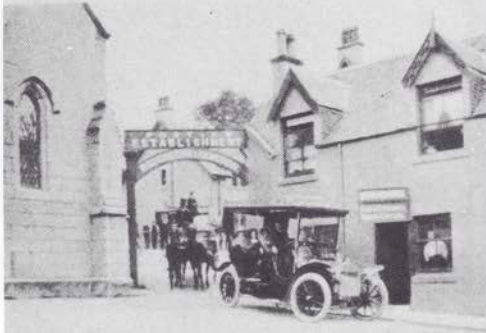


High Street Businesses

MacGregor & Cameron

Posting Masters,

The Stables, Gordon Square, and
Alexandra Hotel, FORT WILLIAM.



Superior **Horses** and **Carriages** of
every description on Job or Hire. ☘
Pleasure Drives to Places of Interest.
Ponies for Ben Nevis.

POSTING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

For further information, apply as above, or at
1, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM.

*This establishment, which was finally to become MacRae and Dick's, was
firstly MacGregor and Cameron's and then A. and J. MacPherson's.*



*Mr MacPherson is on the right and Mr Campbell of the Pearl
Assurance on the left.*



MacDonald Brothers, grocers, in the early twenties on the site of the Grand Hotel. MacDonald's tea was on sale at 1/6 a pound. MacDonald Brothers later became Simon MacDonald's. Tea was now offered in a range of prices: 1/6, 1/8 and 2/- . Simon's son, Semp, was one of the first proprietors of the Grand Hotel.





Important to Visitors.

The Leading Purveyor of
PRIME HOME-FED SCOTCH MEAT

— IS —

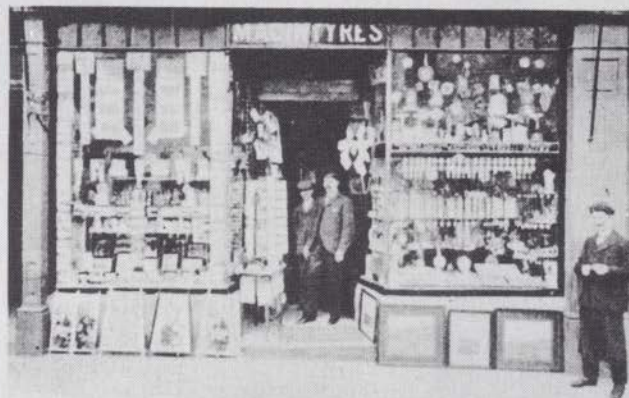
**Duncan McIntyre,
Butcher,**

Duncan MacIntyre, butcher, in Glengarry Buildings.

MacIntyre's Tourist Emporium, where the Jacobite Bar now stands.

Macintyre's Tourist Emporium,

❁ ❁
Stationery,
Crest China,
View Goods,
Goods for
Presents,
Souvenirs in
Great Variety.



JEWELLERY.
Pearls,
Scotch Jewellery
and
Pebble Goods
in large variety.
Special Display
of Cairngorm
Amethysts
in Necklets,
Pendants,
Brooches, &c.

❁ ❁
103, High Street :: :: FORT WILLIAM.



Miss Lawrie's china and art store on the site of MacTavish's Kitchens. Notices indicate Campbell, plumbers and MacPhee, tailor, up the lane.

Hugh MacGillivray's original shop below the Granite House Hotel. His assistant is Hugh MacLean.





Mr Rodger and his daughter, Betty, at the door of his tea room where the Job Centre now is.

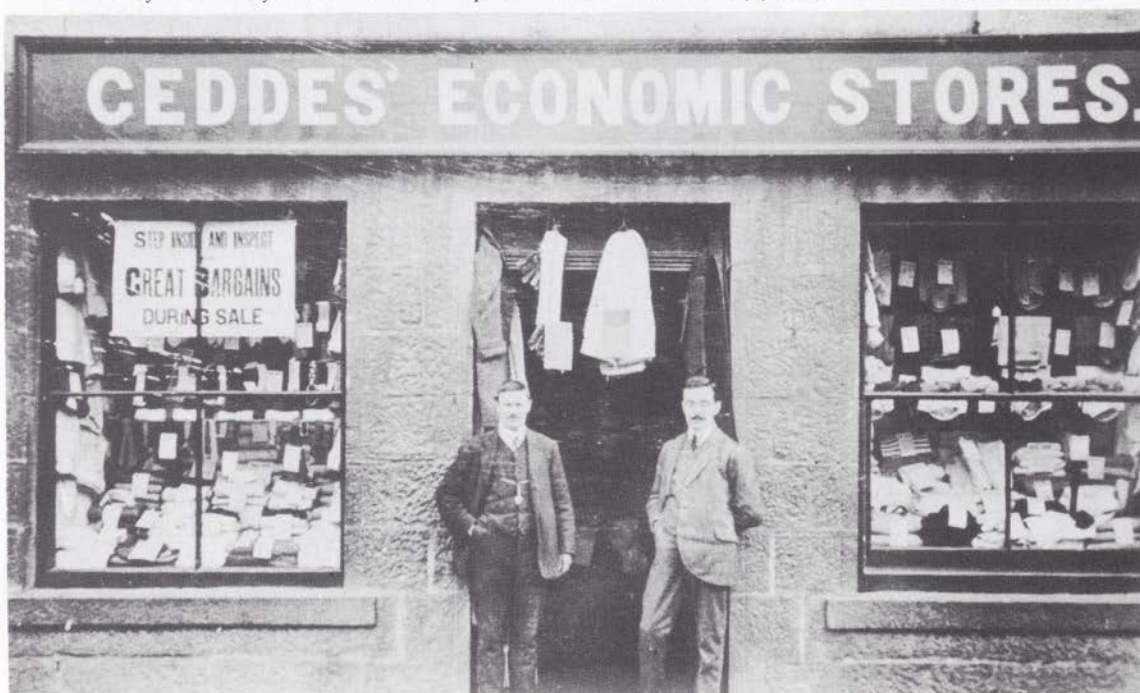


Lawrie Blair, fishmonger and ex-Provost of Fort William, stands at the rear, while Hugh Gordon and John Gordon are at the front.



Situated where MacArthur Stewart now have their premises, MacDonald's were offering made-to-measure suits at £2:10/-.

Geddes' of Oban was yet another clothes shop: Fort William was obviously fortunate at one time in this respect.





MacIntyre's Garage in Monzie Square, 1933. (Mr D. MacIntyre in the picture).

Mairi MacIntyre's, outfitters, at the junction with Linnhe Road. Mrs Puland is on the left and Mary Dalgleish on the right.





Willie Swan, hairdresser and tobacconist, was the first winner of the Ben Nevis race in 1895. His shop was opposite MacFarlane the chemist's.

MacDougall's stationery business was next to the wine merchants, currently Victoria Wine.

Alex. Macdougall,
 Bookseller, Stationer, Newsagent,
 Librarian and Printer.
FORT WILLIAM.



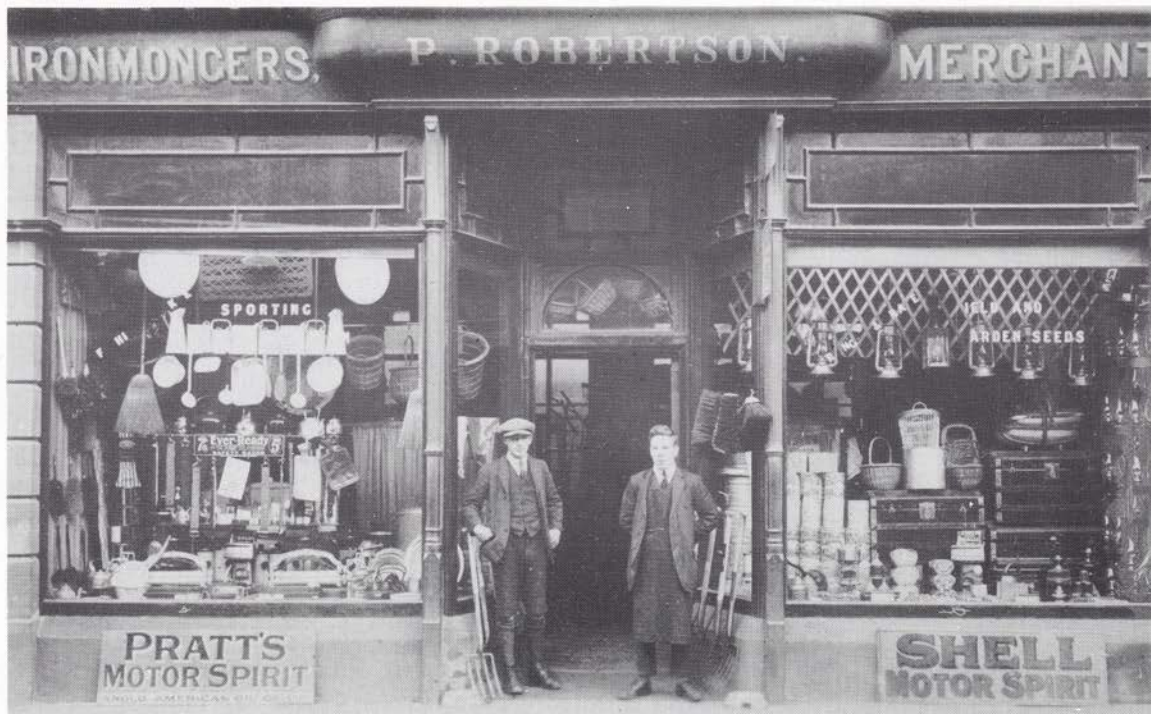
An Unrivalled Selection of Post Cards
 and Views.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF HOLIDAY LITERATURE

GOLF CLUBS AND BALLS.



Mr Andrew Stewart, middle, and his staff at the door of his shop on the corner of Cameron Square.



Peter Robertson's ironmonger's shop in the Palace Hotel building prior to the First World War. John Pearson is the one with the cap and the other is Jack Robertson, Peter's son.



The Co-operative grocery shop in the early 1930's. These premises in the Masonic Hall building are currently occupied by Oxfam.

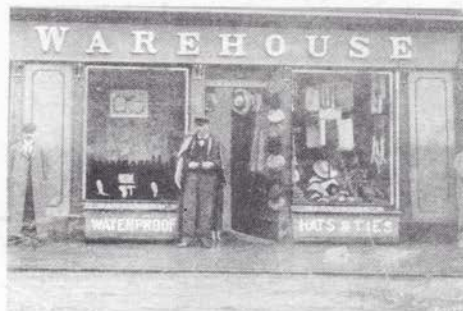


Peter MacLennan's grocery store and tweed and tartan warehouse in the twenties.

DUNCAN MACKINNON
Ben Nevis Warehouse :: FORT WILLIAM

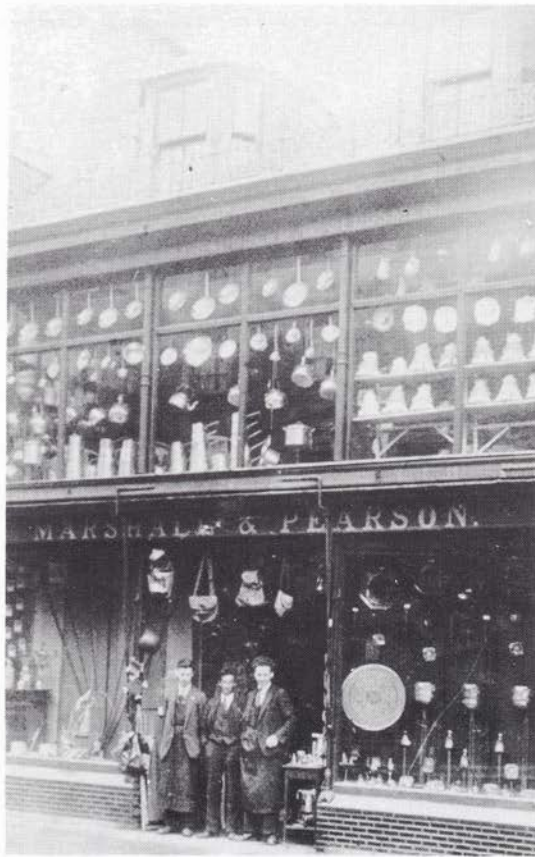


THE NEW



THE OLD

Duncan MacKinnon's warehouse, now occupied by a travel agent.



Marshall and Pearson's ironmongery business. The three young men are Colin Thompson, Davie Bryce and "Dinky" Cameron.

Imperial Hotel, Fort William.

This fine Hotel is nicely situated,
having a splendid view of the
Sea and surrounding scenery.



Tourists and Commercial Gentle-
men will find every home comfort,
combined with moderate charges.

Posting in all its branches.

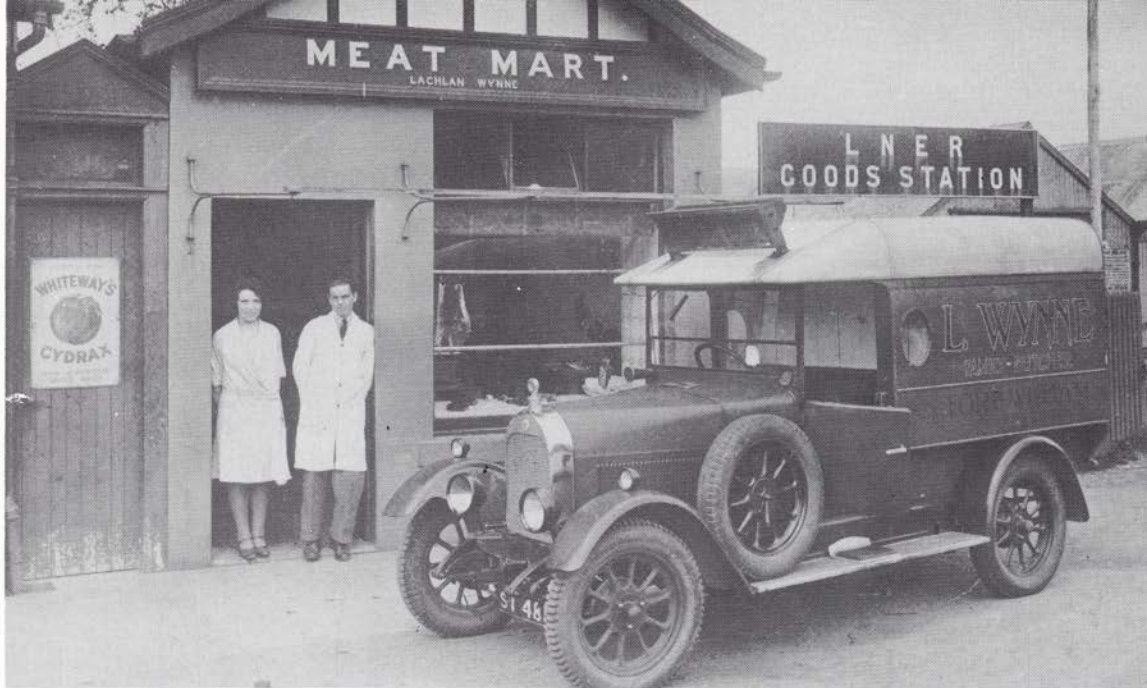
BOOTS ATTENDS ALL TRAINS AND STEAMERS.

Special Terms with C.T.C.

ELECTRIC LIGHT THROUGHOUT. MODERATE TERMS.

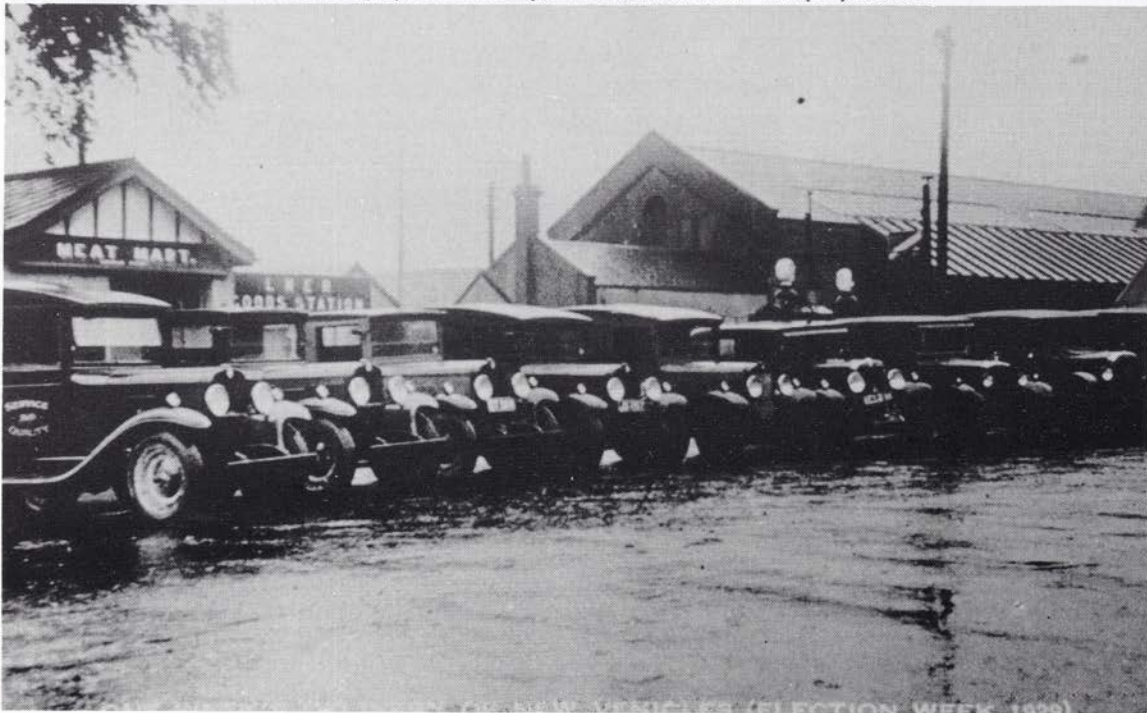
A. GORDON - Proprietor.

(Late of Ben Nevis Hotel).



Chrissie MacKay and Angus MacDougall outside Lachie Wynne's original shop opposite the Parade.

One week's delivery of new vehicles for the Lochaber Motor Company in 1929.



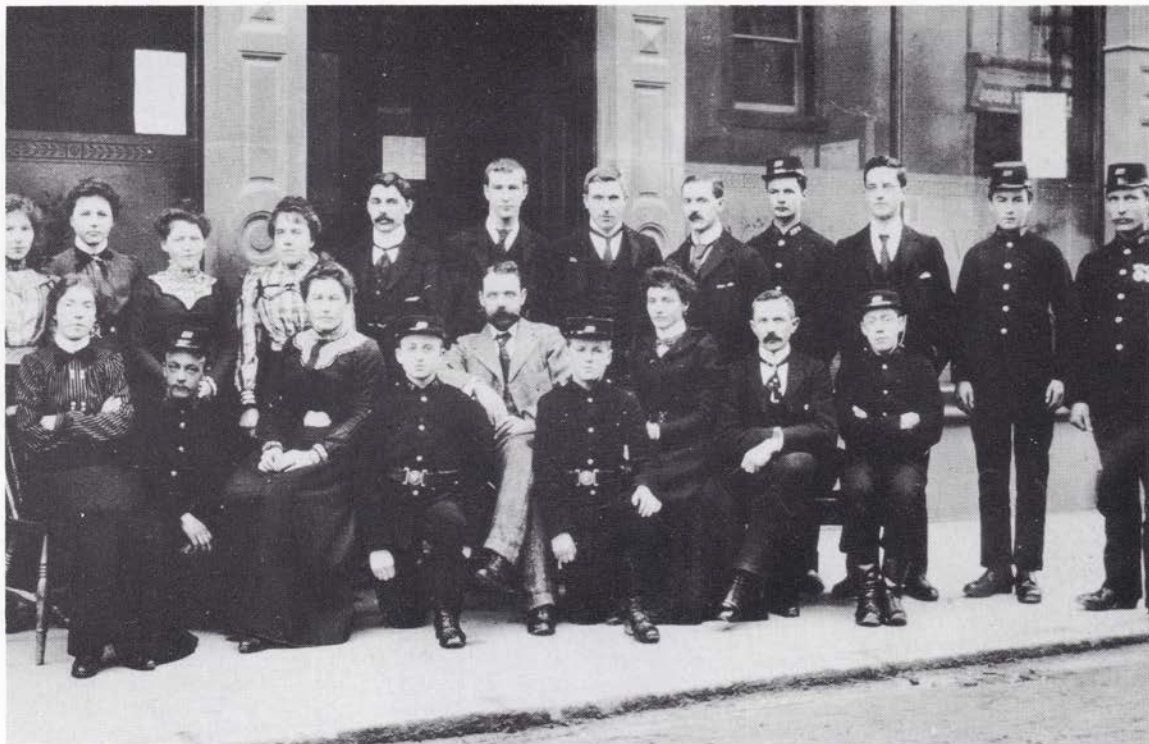
People at Work



Construction work on the Ben Nevis Observatory which was completed in 1883.

Observer within Ben Nevis Observatory.

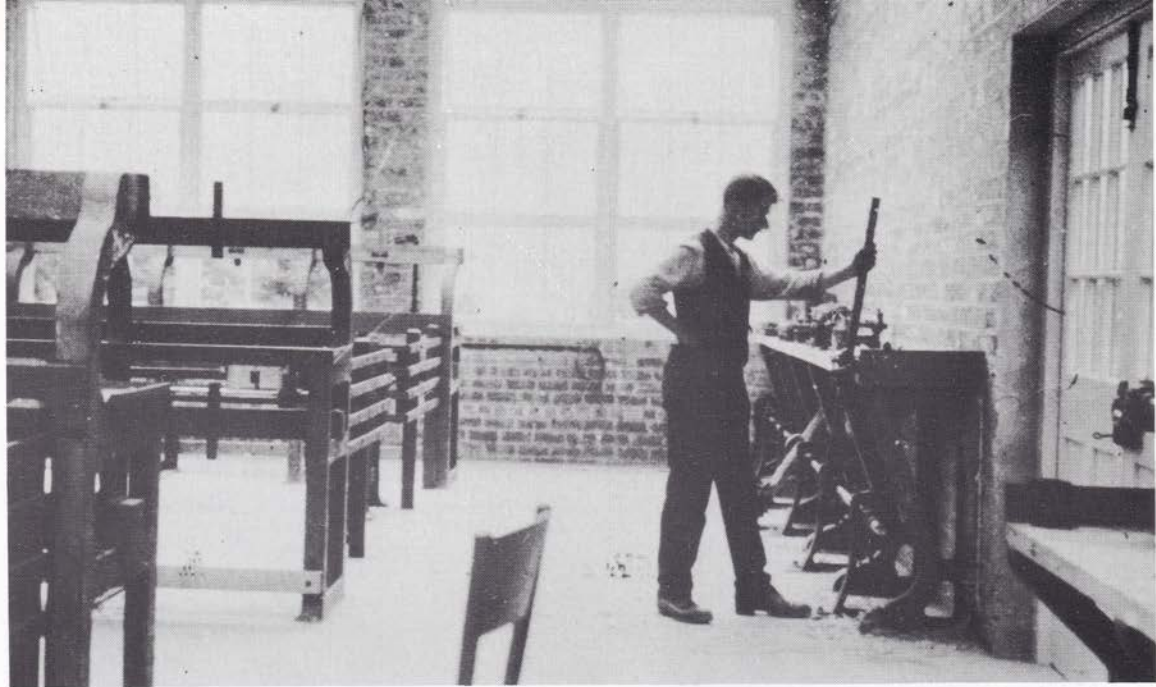




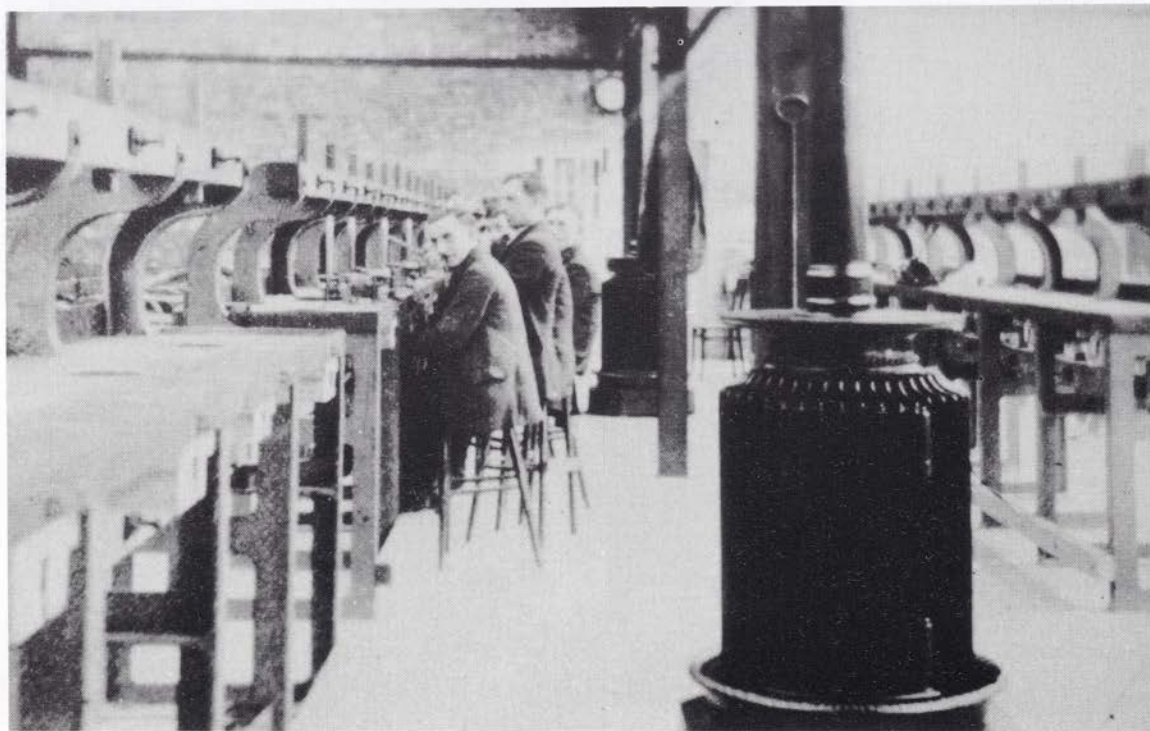
Post Office staff outside the old Post Office, 1903.



Tailors at work within Duncan MacKinnon's warehouse.



A diamond cutting establishment was started in the Highland Hotel in 1919. The intention was to give employment to disabled soldiers, but it did not continue for any length of time.





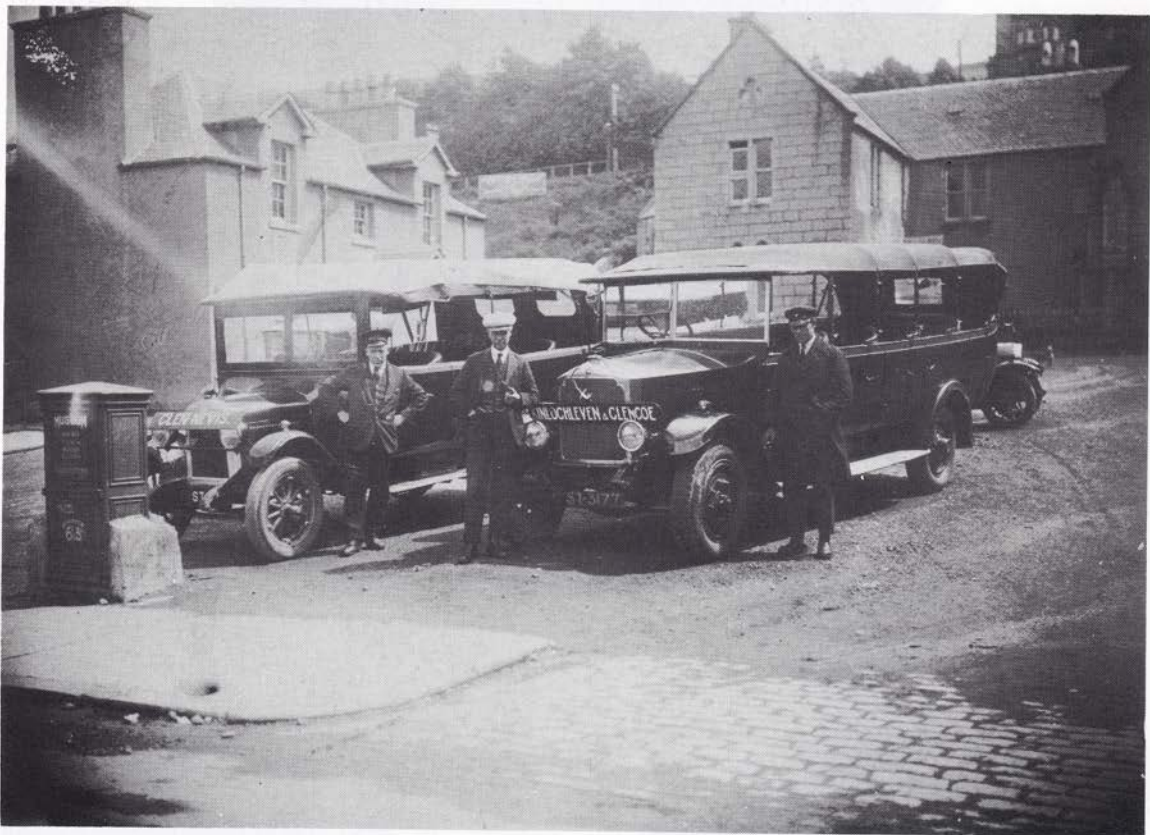
Long John Distillery Fire Brigade: included here are two future Provosts, Donald Shaw and Donald Cameron, also Mr Allan, the painter, Willie MacLean, Ralph Collins and Donald Cameron who built "Oak Cottage".



Interior shot of Andrew Stewart's wine shop.

Kenny Cameron (Friend), with Mrs Annie Chisholm at "Rockvale", Lundavra Road.





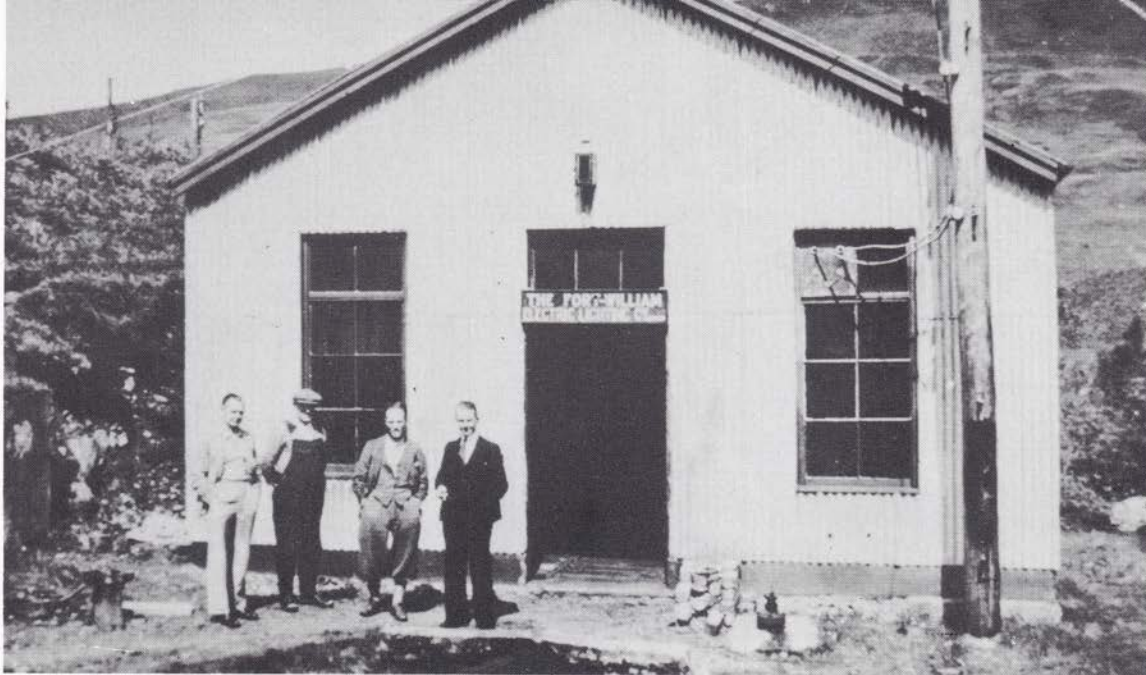
Mr A. MacPheron (centre), with some of his charabancs in Gordon Square in the thirties.



*MacBrayne's drivers and staff C. 1946: John Grey, Harry Connor, Hughie Ferguson, James (Skeesh) Gillies, Donald Campbell.
Front: ?, Donald Robertson?, Johnnie Clark.*

MacBrayne's staff C. 1960: Violet Cameron, Kay MacIntyre, John Edwards, Cathie MacLean, Rosemary MacKellaig, Dolly MacDougall, Jean Gow, Anna May Shaw and Helen MacPherson.

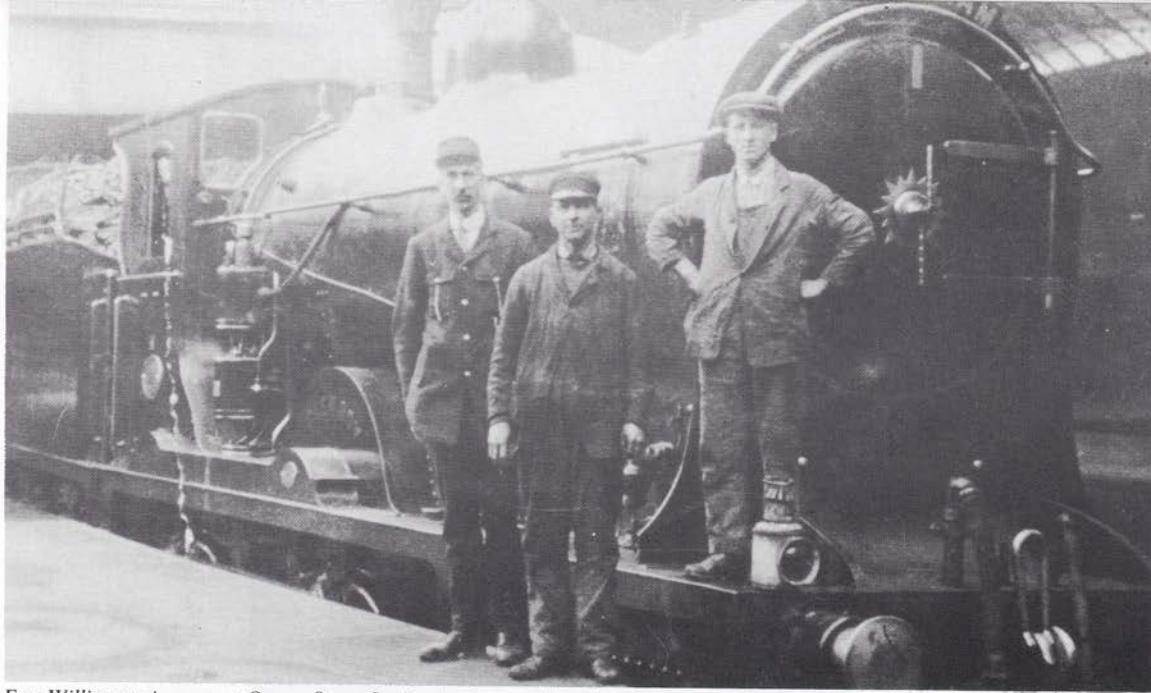




The Fort William Electric Lighting Company building at Blarmachfoldach. In 1894 Fort William became the first town in Britain to have street lighting powered by its own hydro-electric supply.

Lochaber Laundry staff, 1933. Included here are Ann MacKay, Ruby MacLeod, Lucy Galloway, Nellie Gray, "Lulu" MacColl, Jessie MacNeil, Mary Malcolm and Mrs Butler.





Fort William train crew at Queen Street Station in the twenties: George Hayes (guard), Donald Kearney (fireman) and George Clarkson (driver).

B.A. laboratory staff C. 1960: Margaret Anderson, Cathie MacKenzie, Alice Mathieson, Donella Cameron, Mary Anderson, June Austen, Irene MacLean, Chrissie MacKenzie, Jeannette Black, Loise Docherty, Evelyn Groundwater.





*Archie MacLean, the
Treslaig ferryman from
the early 1900's until the
Second World War.*

Schoolchildren in the mid-fifties waiting to board the "Ardyne", manned by Mr MacLean's sons, Iain and Archie.

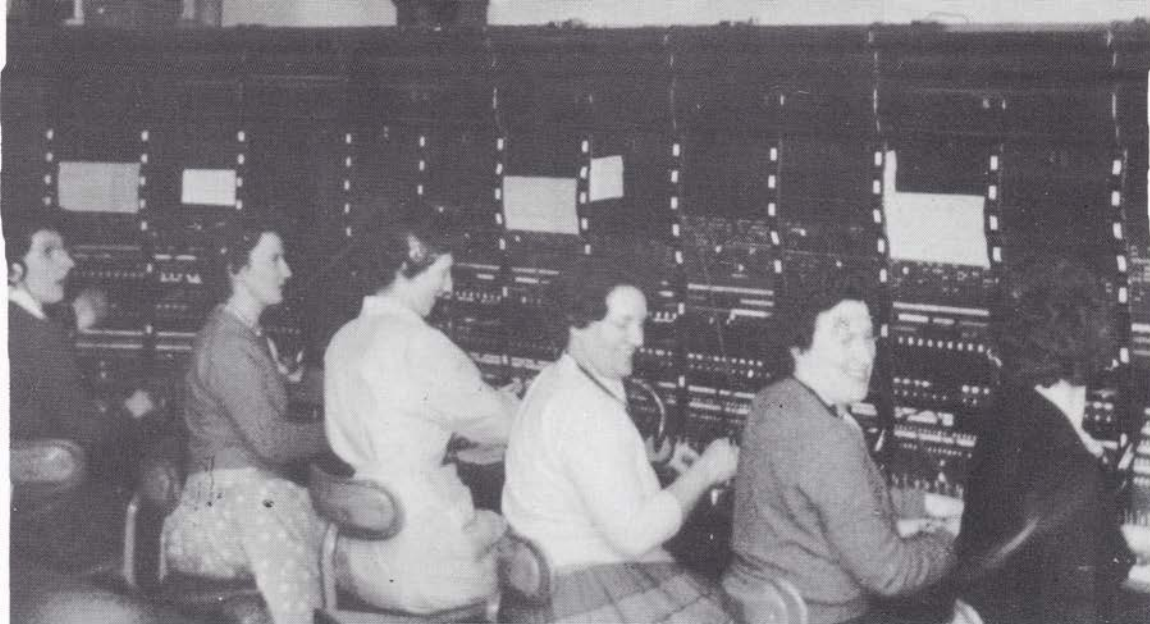




Pipe laying at Lochy Bridge in the fifties.



P.J.L. Heron's men at Spean Bridge, C. 1960.



Telephone operators at the exchange above the old Post Office C. 1960: Betty Watt, Margaret MacDonald, Jessie Paterson, Flora MacDougall, Moira Shaw and Cathie Clark.

The last telephone operators in Fort William telephone exchange (night staff) in 1986: Mary Bruce, Fiona MacDougall, Sheila MacDonald, Iona Park, Mairi MacMillan, Terry Standen, Jessie Hay, Margaret Robertson and Margaret MacIntosh. Seated are Joan Steel, Betty MacDougall and Helen MacDonald.





British Aluminium Company power house workers C. 1950.



British Aliminium Company management and staff C. 1950.

Social Events



A bus outing in the thirties.

Social function, C. 1937: Simon MacDonald (Provost), Mairi MacIntyre, Mrs MacPherson (Commercial Hotel) and Dugald Carmichael.





Hallowe'en party in the Town Hall, 1945.



Dave Gardner and his versatile orchestra in the late thirties: Tommy Lyons, Roderick MacLeod, Davie Gardner, Harry Lowes and Willie Gardner.

MacLennan's staff dance, early fifties.





Fort William Masonic dance, C. 1950.

Liverpool Victoria staff dance in the same era.





Country dance, Highland Hotel, C. 1950.



Another dinner dance, this time it's the British Aluminium staff night out in 1948.



Fort William Gaelic Choir in June 1951.

Grown-up's Hallowe'en party time in Fraser's Cafe about the same time.





Police Ball, C. 1957.

Lochaber country dance team of the sixties.





Fort William Senior Secondary School's production of "Iolanthe" in the Town Hall, 1958. Back row: Duncan MacDonald, Iain Campbell, Kenneth MacKenzie, Archie Pryce, Kenneth MacDonald, John Redpath, Atholl Souter, Alister Sibbald, Donald MacKenzie and Hamish Louden. Seond row: John Morrison, Stewart Wallace, Harry Sibbald, Donald Morrison, Alasdair Clark, Fred Andrews, Hugh MacDonald, George Kay and Neil Kerr. Third row: Andrew Honeyman, Sheena MacDonald, Margaret MacDonald, Gwynneth MacIntyre, Annette Grant, Alistair Thompson, Anne Jack, Pat Neish, Sine MacKinnon, Mary Campbell, Anne MacKellaig, Rosemary MacBeath, Cathie MacKenzie and Joyce Cameron. Front row: Marina MacDonell, Barbara Hutchings, Jean Young, Janette Millar, Marsali MacPherson, Carol MacKay, Morag Morrison, Rosemary Souter, Catherine Cameron, May MacLachlan, Elna Lavens and Rena MacPherson.

Leisure and Sports



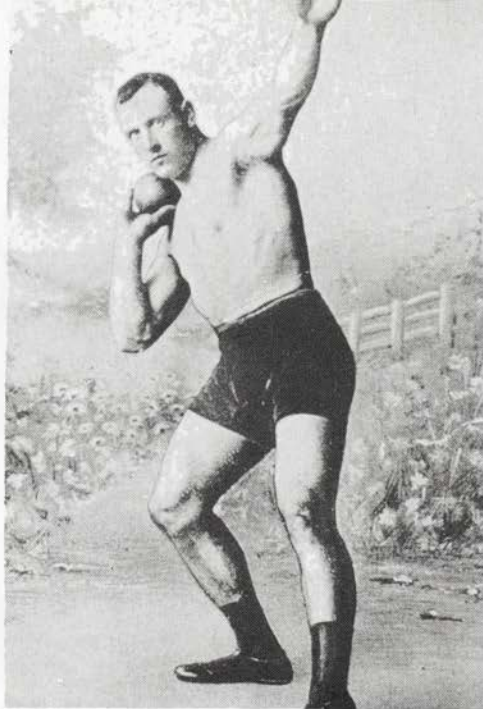
Lochaber v. Spean Bridge curling match in Glen Nevis C. 1890. Curling was still taking place here in the late 1950's, but the rink is now in a state of disrepair.



Fort William tennis tournament, 1917. The Tennis Club was situated in Achintore Road near Ashburn Lane.

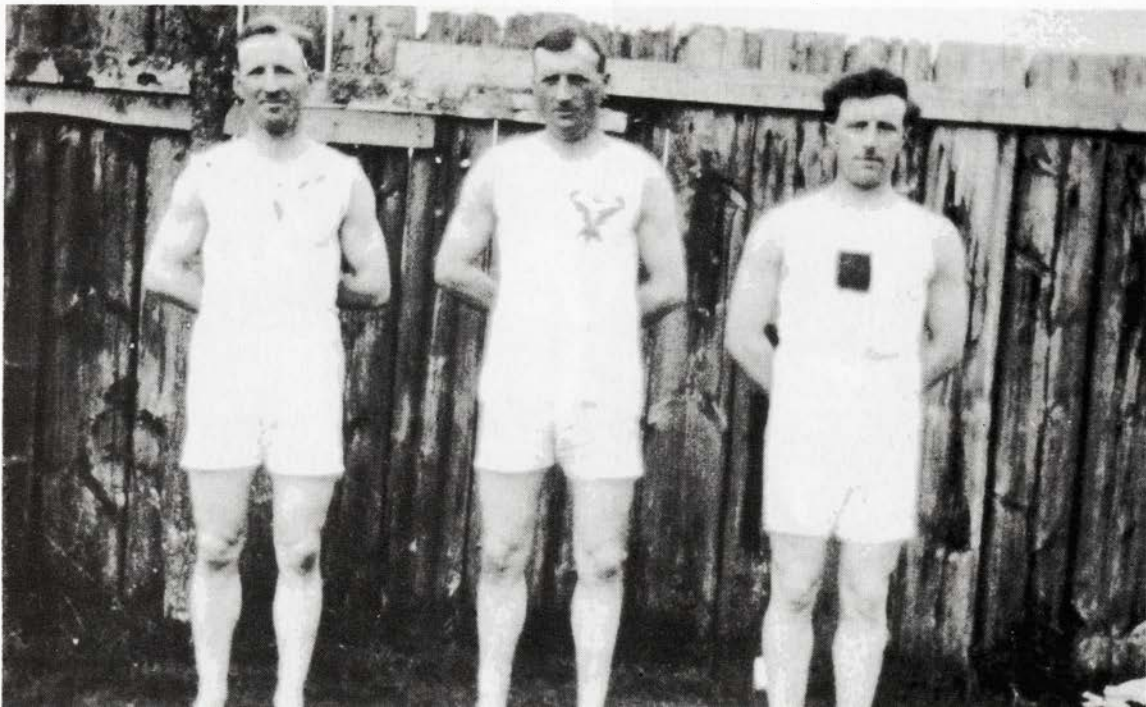
Fort William Bowling Club, C. 1925. The bowling green was on the site of the car park opposite the Belford Hospital.





A.A. Cameron, Mucomir: holder of records for putting the ball, throwing the weight and throwing the hammer, and world wrestling champion in 1903, 1904 and 1906. His magnificent championship belt is on display in the West Highland Museum.

Hughie, Donald and Willie Kennedy, renowned local athletes of the thirties.





Fort William football team, Caley League champions of 1933.

Fort William Rifle Club in the late 1940's.





Inverlochy v. B.A. bowling match 1945/46: Back row: Mr Halse, C. MacGillivray, Mr Roy, N. MacKay, J. Rutherford, A. Anderson, J. Cameron and A. Robertson. Middle row: K. Stewart, A.K. MacDonald, H. Fraser, G. Lumley, J. Ogg, D. MacInnes, J. Anderson, W. Mackelvie, R. Black, W. Fyffe and T. Jasicki. Front row: Mr MacGillivray, J. Taylor, J. Corson, S. Martin, D. Carmichael, J. MacKay, T. Wells, D. MacAlpine and W. Fordyce.



Fort William shinty team, 1946/47: Back row: M. MacMillan, A. Reece, A. MacLean, J. Cameron, "Doxie" Cameron, L. Stewart, T. Wilson, F. MacMillan (Beaully) and D. MacIntyre. Front row: W. MacLeod, J. Aitken, D. Cameron, A. MacIntyre, J. Rodger (Pasha), J. Wilson (Ginger) and D.J. Cameron.



Curling at Inverlochy Castle early in the fifties.



Mr Spence, solicitor, prepares to start the 1958 Ben Nevis Race. Lined up are Jimmy Conn, Mickey Moan, Douglas Thompson, Eddie Campbell, Pat Moy, Andy Fleming and Danny MacQueen.

The race was won by David Spencer from Barrow in Furness in 1 hour 46 minutes and 8 seconds. The first race in 1895 was won by Willie Swan in 2 hours 41 minutes.





Scottish Six Days' Motorcycle Trials in the mid-fifties. The "Rocky Brae" was a popular viewpoint for local children.

Fort William Table Tennis Club, C. 1970.

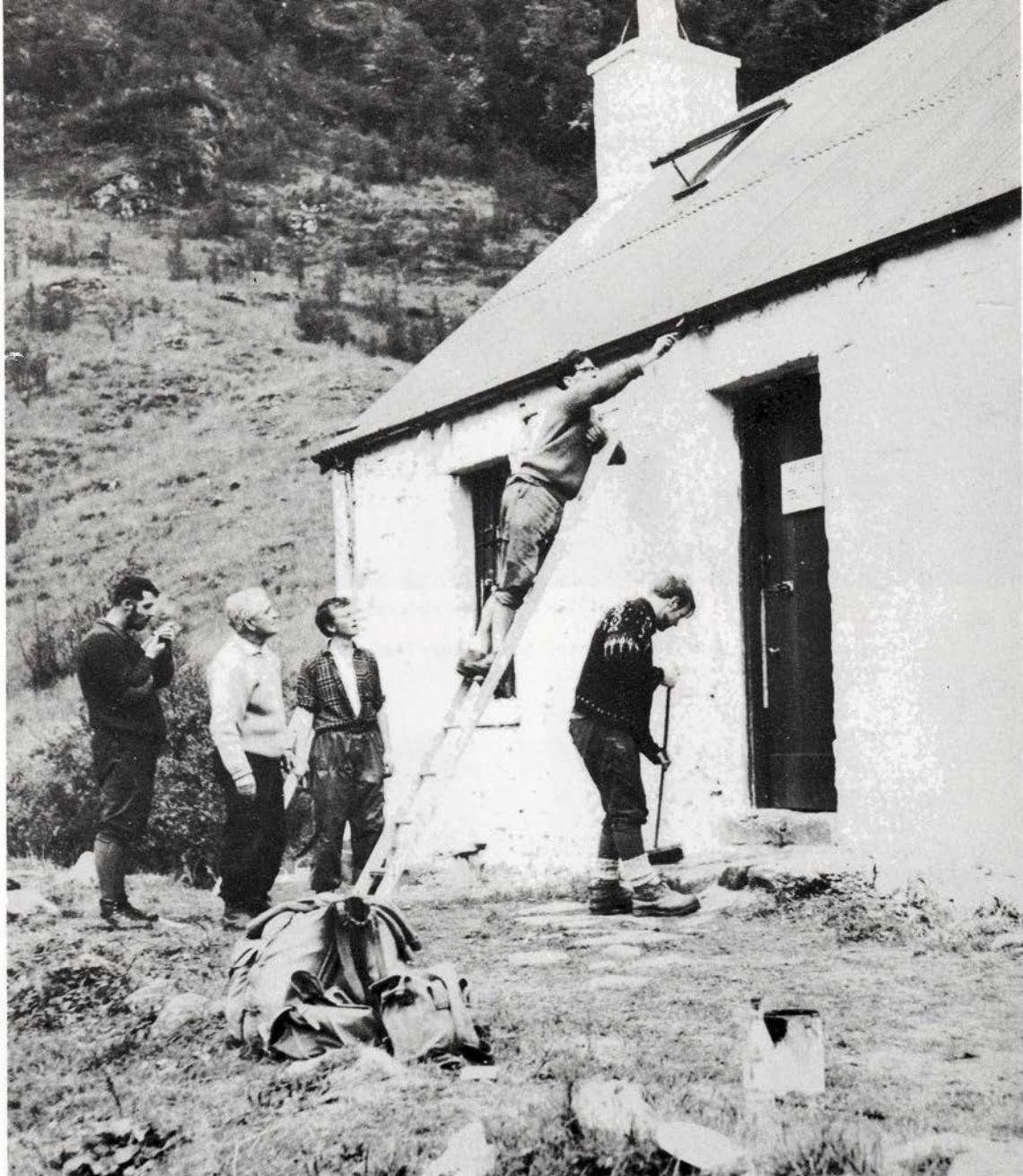




Fort William Ornithological Society, C. 1959.

Fort William S.S. School Under-15 Football Team, 1959/60: Back: D. Cargill, A. Gillies, T. MacDonald, A. Downie, A. MacFadyen, O. Donaldson and L. MacCallum. Front: D. MacPherson, D. Oliphant, A. MacLeod, P. Wallace and N. MacCallum.





Renovation of Steall Cottage by Lochaber Mountaineering Club in the early sixties: Iain Lockhart, Willie Dignan, Bill Burley, Bill Robertson and Iain Sutherland.



Fort William Golf Club in the early 1960's.

Fort William Primary School Shinty Team, 1971.



Schools, etc.



Fort William Primary and Secondary School staff, 1925/26. Back: John MacDonald, Miss MacInnes, John Duthie, John MacKain, Miss MacRae, Mr Farquhar, Miss MacDougall, Mr Swinton. Middle: Miss MacColl, Miss Daisy Stewart, Mr MacKay (headmaster, 1896-1926), Miss Duncan, Miss Rait, Miss Mitchell. Front: ?, Miss Urquhart (Mrs Galbraith).

Fort William Secondary pupils and staff, 1925/26.





Miss Shaw, Mr Alex. MacKay (headmaster) and Miss Hodge with Fort William Primary School children, 1911/1912.



Fort William S.S. School Gaelic Choir, C. 1947: Back: Anne Grant, Isobel Chisholm, Mary A. MacEachan, Margaret MacDonald, Catherine Lothian, Mary MacDonald, Christiana MacKinnon, Ena MacKinnon, Helen Pringle, Mary MacDonald, Lucy MacIntosh. Middle: Ishbel MacPherson, Jeannette Black, Mary A. Morrison, Ewena MacDonald, Elfra Petrie, Anne Cameron, Janet Robertson, Fiona Cameron. Front: Catherine Cameron, Rena Anderson, Nanette MacGillivray, Eileen MacIntosh, Iona MacLean, Catherine MacKinnon, Rhona MacDonald, Helen Munro, Flora MacDonald.



Banavie School Choir, June 1947: Back: Jessie Flannigan, Margaret Lauder, Mary Campbell, Peter Cameron, Jean Russell, Annabel MacEachan, Jean MacIntyre. Middle: Marjory Paterson, Helen Livingston, Ann Fraser, Minnie Livingston, Muriel MacFarlane (teacher), Barbara MacEachan, Ann Colquhoun, Mary Cameron. Front: Iain Fraser, Sandy Cameron, Greta Carmichael, Ronald Ferguson, Alistair MacDonald.



St Mary's Primary School, C. 1950: Back: S. MacLean, H. Nolan, J.A. Gillies, J. Rae, J. Crowley, P. Palkimas, I. Abernethy, H. Sibbald. Second: B. MacLeod, F. Sutherland, D. Cameron, S. Karosaite, M. Cameron, Margaret Donaldson, M. Swift, F. MacGuire. Third: B. Gribben, B. Anderson, M. Laggan, Mary Donaldson, F. Connochie, K. Connochie, A. MacKellaig, E. Donoghue, M. MacFarlane. Front: H. MacConnell, M. Laggan, J. O'Shaughnessy, S. Kennedy, A. MacLean, K. MacDonald, J. MacDonald, S. Walker.



Caol Primary School, Class V, 1953: Back: Mrs Helen Campbell, Dougal Sinclair, Donnie Corbett, Alan Campbell, Archie Ferguson, Thomas MacLean, Lindsay MacCallum, John Kinghorn, Alan Bolton, Donald MacRae, Billy Logan, Billy Bolton. Second row: Robert MacAskill, Elizabeth Louden, Joyce Mathers, Margaret MacDonald, Elizabeth MacLellan, Marion MacLean, Rosemary Thompson, Wilma Sandison, James Shearer, Marshall Brown. Third row: Eric Payne, Billy Mathers, Iain Cameron, Diana Prosser, Cathie Livingston, Barbara MacKinnon, Marion MacLeod, Rosemary Goodfellow, Val Beaton, John Munro. Front: Donald O'Connor, Angus Ryan, Frank Keenan, Terence Confield, Victor King.



Fort William Primary VII, 1959: Back: Tom Collins, Alan Dignan, Sandy Fairlie, George Oliver, Stewart MacLean, David Bryce, James Cameron, John MacNaughton. Middle: Patricia Aitkenhead, Roberta Rankin, Christine Whitehead, Lois MacLaren, Dorothy Petersen, Alison Jeffries, Patricia Gordon, Fiona Myles, Ishbel Kennedy. Front: Michael Kay, Hamish Souter, Jack Thomas, Warren Cameron, Donnie Chisholm, Graham MacLaren, Neil Clark, Robert Beaton.



Fort William S.S. School Staff, C. 1955: Back: Ewen MacDonald, Johnnie Walker, Bobby Beatson, Angus Gillies, Alex Gillies, Murdo MacKay, Lachlan MacLeod, Cairiona MacLeod, Duncan MacInnes, Donald MacDonald (geography), Frank Coull, Alan Wilson. Front: Jeanette MacDonald (secretary), Flora MacTaggart, Donald MacDonald (French), William Murphie, Charles Mitchell (headmaster), Douglas Crowe, Margaet Jamieson, Jessie MacLean.



Lochaber High School Staff, 1964: Back: Mr Hood (janitor), A. MacLeod, A. Clark, Mr Faulkner, J. Ballantyne, L. MacLeod, D. Barr, D. Chalmers (French), E. Farquhar, Mr Roxburgh. Middle: Miss Robertson, Mrs Davies, K. Anderson, Miss Tolson, P. Moore, Miss MacPhail, M. MacIntyre, Miss Christie, Miss Henderson, Mrs Honeyman, J. MacDonald (secretary), Mr MacNaughton (asst janitor). Front: D. MacDonald (geography), D. MacDonald (French), Mr Sim, K. MacPherson, Miss Paul, Dr Honeyman (headmaster), L. MacKinnon, M. Jamieson, Miss MacLennan, C. Chalmers (English), S. MacGregor, J. MacKenzie, D. MacInnes.

Uniformed Organisations



An outing of the Society of Rechabites Temperance Organisation at the beginning of the century.



Fourth Cameron Highlanders Detachment, June 1911.

Presentation of the Colours to the Second Fort William Boy Scouts in the Parade, 1911.

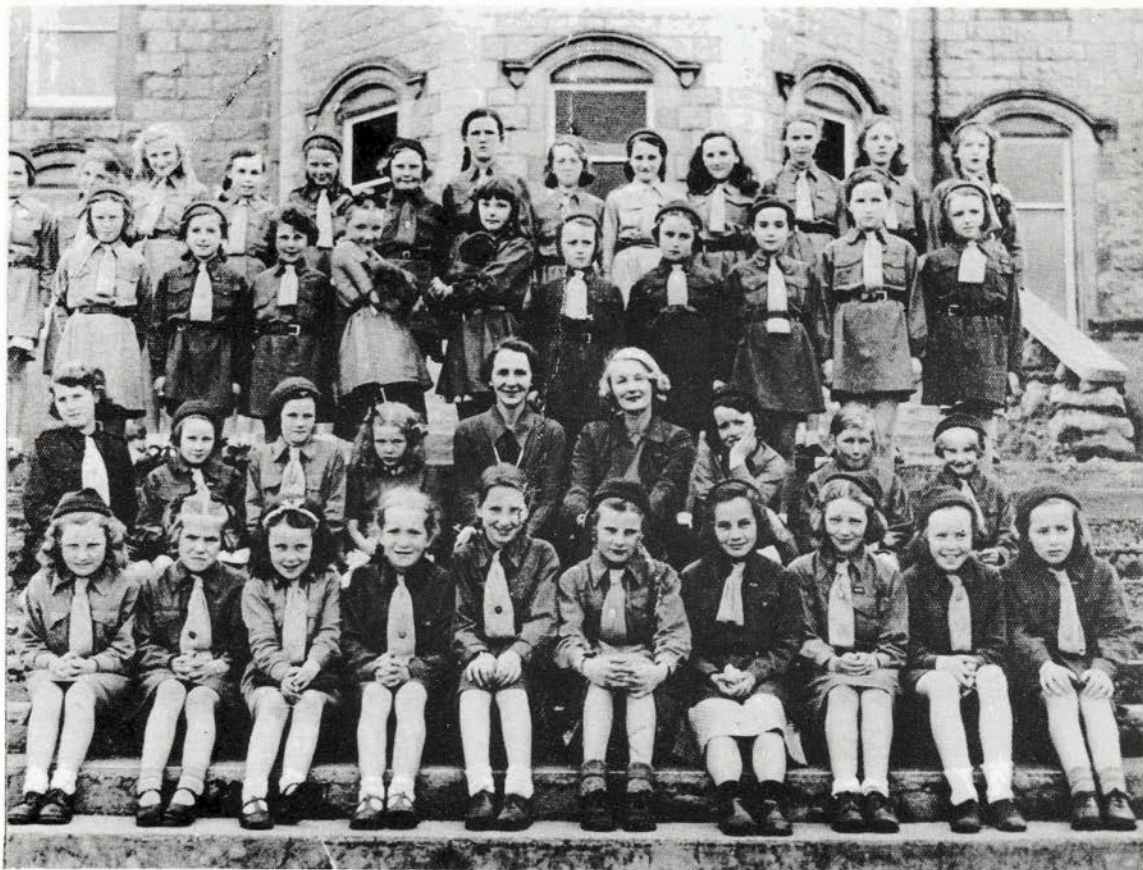




Home Guard on parade in the King George V Park.



Second Fort William (Duncansburgh) Lifeboys Christmas Party, C. 1948.



Macintosh Memorial Brownies' outing to Inverlochy Castle, C. 1948.



Fourth Fort William Girl Guides, C. 1949.



British Legion Pipe Band in the early fifties.



Cameron Highlanders Territorial Army Detachment pose for a group photograph on the occasion of their annual dance in 1954.

“Characters”



Sandy MacGregor, Blarmachfoldach, one of the partners in MacGregor and Cameron's posting establishment in Gordon Square.



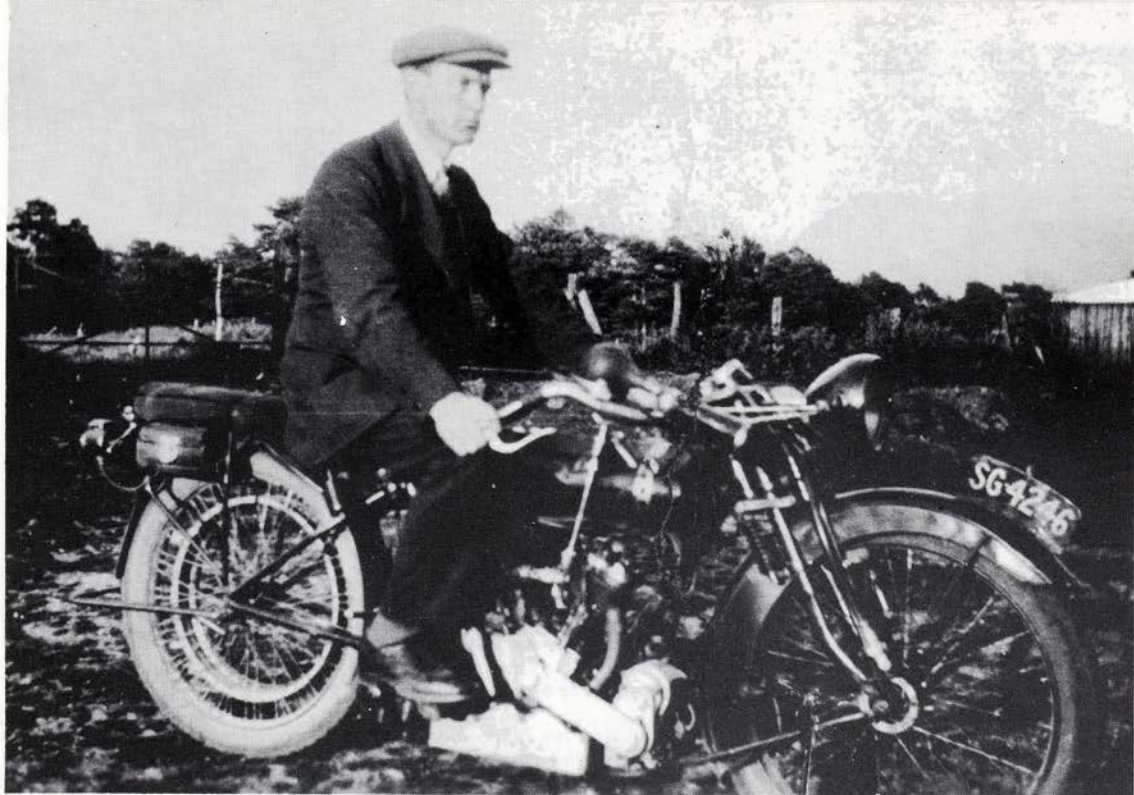
Mrs Rodger and Sarah Cameron outside the Observatory Hotel on Ben Nevis.



William Kilgour, author, seated on the left with a party of visitors on the summit of Ben Nevis. He also operated a typing and shorthand business in Cameron Square.

Well known characters at the beginning of the century: Jock the Piper, unknown policeman, Frank the Sweep and Paddy MacEwen the plasterer.

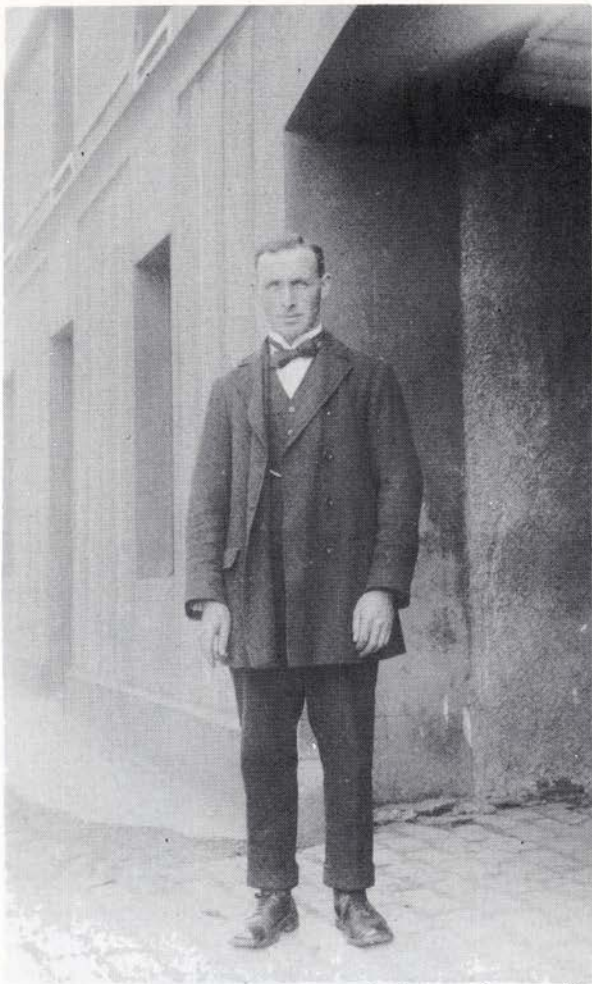




Jimmy Donaldson on the town's first motorbike with electric lights, C. 1920.

"Old John", reputed to have second sight, in Bank Street.





Donald MacMillan, standing in MacMillan's Lane, the vennel in Middle Street.



Constables Cormack and Cameron.



Young Charles Connochie, later Doctor Connochie, in his Flying Corps uniform, 1914. He came to Fort William in 1927 and continued to practise until his retiral in the early seventies.

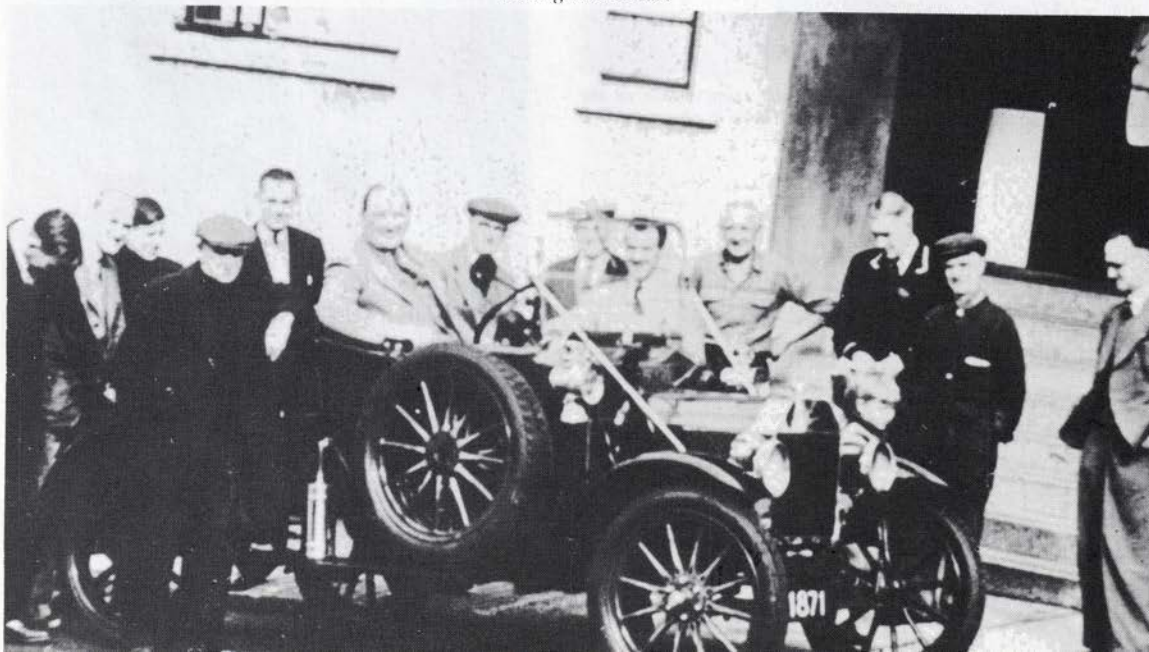
Fuel fill-up time for D.P. MacDonald's car outside Invernevis House.





Very Reverend Canon MacMaster, first parish priest in the new St Mary's, 1937, and the Right Reverend Monsignor MacKintosh, who died in 1922.

An interesting group outside the Grand Hotel: George Simpson in the Model "T" Ford and Donald MacPherson (the Butler) leaning on the car.





Lachlan Wynne, after winning the fiddle competition at the National Mod in 1937. He owned a butchery business, which continues to this day.



Donald MacDougall, the "Bellman", 1862-1941. He once pushed a wheelbarrow to the top of Ben Nevis in a challenge with two others.





*Simon MacDonal, Provost of Fort William 1935-1941,
on his return from Fort William, Canada.*

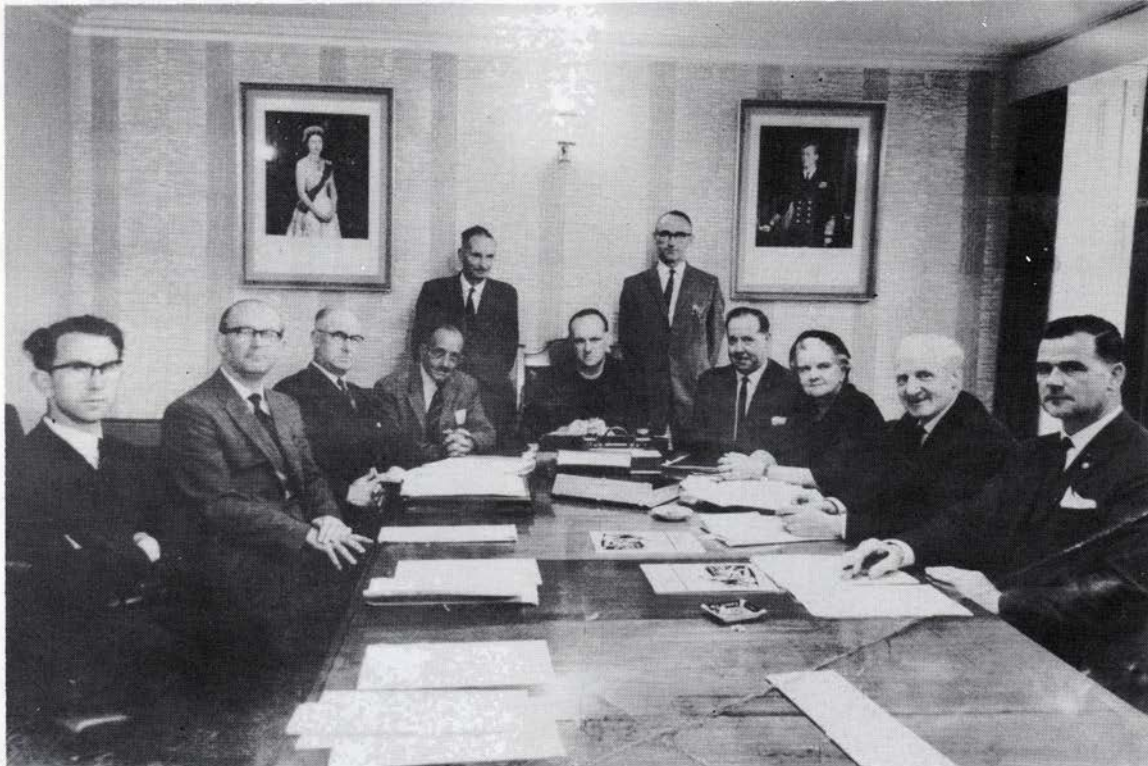
*Doctor Rankine, who came from the Ardgour area,
practised from before the war until his death in 1953.*



District Nurse Campbell, who will be remembered with affection by many as the "School Nurse".



Doctor Maciver, who was reputed to have arrived from Lewis on a motorbike. He tended his patients in the Lochaber area from 1926 until his tragic death in a road accident in 1962.



Fort William Town Council, 1965: Michael Cross (Town Clerk), Donald Cameron, "Carlie" Campbell, "Dinty" More, Bob Barrett (Town Chamberlain), Provost George Henderson, Alister MacLaren (Burgh Surveyor), George MacPherson, Margaret Murphie, Jack Lister and Jim Rodger.



And last, but not least, the producers of this book, Fort William Community Council, 1991: Donald Cameron (Chairman), Roddie Welsh, John Steel, Neil Clark, Iain MacDonald (Regional Councillor), Nigel Chisholm, Archie Lowes and Patricia Jordan. Missing from the photograph are Lily Thompson, George MacFarlane, David Anderson, Mary Bruce and Tommy Disher.

Acknowledgements

Fort William Community Council wishes to thank the following for the loan of their photographs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Mrs E. Barrett, "Molendinar", Argyll Road | Miss G.C. MacCallum, "Clashfern", Cameron Road |
| Mr J. Batchen, Forres | Mr A. MacDonald, Blarmachfoldach |
| Mr J. Brady, 24 Henderson Row | Mrs M. MacDonald, Crown Cottages, Banavie |
| Mrs M. Bruce, 1 Lundavra Crescent | Mrs M. MacDonald, 29 Melantee, Claggan |
| Mr W. Bruce, "Sonas", Fassifern Road | Mr J. MacDougall, 9 Ardnevis Road, Claggan |
| Mrs E. Cain, 12 Argyll Terrace | Mrs E. MacLaren, 24 Grange Road |
| Miss A. Cameron, 43 Alma Road | Mr A. MacLean, "Innseagan", Achintore Road |
| Mrs E. Cameron, "Morardale", Fassifern Road | Mrs K. MacPherson, "Avondale", Union Road |
| Miss M. Cameron, 3 Montrose Avenue, Inverlochy | Mrs D. Moore, "Glenalbyn", Argyll Road |
| Mr N. Cameron, "Struan", Achintore Road | Mrs M. Scott, 14 Lochaber Road |
| Mrs A. Campbell, "Burnbank", Alma Road | Miss A.M. Shaw, 106 Lundavra Road |
| Mr T. Campbell, 31 Alma Road | Mrs C. Stevenson, 11 Lochy Road, Inverlochy |
| Mr N. Clark, 14 Perth Place | Mrs C. Stewart, "Glengorm", Morar |
| Mrs J. Connor, "Muneregie", Victoria Road | Mrs F. White, 3 Ardnevis Road, Claggan |
| Mrs W. Dignan, 4 Grange Road | Mr A. Whitehead, 20 Altour Road, Spean Bridge |
| Mr A. Gillespie, 6 Caledonian Road, Corpach | Mrs E. Whitfield, "Saint Ola", Union Road |
| Mr H. Gordon, 31 Lochiel Road, Inverlochy | Mr I. Wynne, "Saint Andrews East", Fassifern Road |
| Mr H. Graham, 18 Mackay Crescent, Caol | |
| Mr J. Hogg, 44 Mossfield Drive, Caol | |
| Mr A. Lowes, 7 Seafield Gardens | |