

RIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1982

Our Old Files

25 YEARS AGO (January 18, 1957)

Mr Gordon Munro, Cyderhall, had been appointed president of the Golspie branch of the NFU in succession to Mr John Mackintosh, Embo Mains. Mr W Everitt, Evelix, was appointed vice-president and Mr D G Munro Cyderhall, was re-appointed secretary and treasurer.

Miss E Fraser, who had retired after being headmistress for 41 years at Oldshore School, Kinlochbervie, had received a presentation from the people of the district.

Disappointment at the slow rate of progress in Sutherland by the Forestry Commission was expressed by some county councillors, who complained about the low rates of wages being offered to workmen.

Three Sutherland nursing sisters were to attend a refresher course for midwives at Dunblane, Perthshire.

More than 160 window panes, valued at £60, had been broken at Helmsdale Old School buildings, and the damage was blamed on children under the age of five.

The operation of the Meikle Ferry across the Dornoch Firth for pedestrians and cyclists was to be stopped by Sutherland county council. But they agreed to let the ferryman remain in the house and have the loan of the boat temporarily to run the ferry, if he so desired.

50 YEARS AGO (January 21, 1932)

The Rev Alexander Macrae of Tongue had published a booklet on the history and traditions of Kinlochbervie district.

The death had occurred of Mr Gilbert Eccles, Rose Cottage, Golspie, former head gamekeeper on Sutherland Estates. He had come to Golspie in 1904 and held the position of head gamekeeper until 1930.

Local contractors had decided to reduce the rate of masons' wages from 1/4 to

1/3 per hour. Labourers' wages were to continue, as formerly, at 9d per hour.

As in former years, Mr John A Ross, Ardgay House, had provided the treat for the inmates of Swordale Institution, Bonar Bridge.

Sutherland's Chief Constable Mr Hugh Chisholm had reported 189 crimes in the previous year, a rise of 29 from 1930.

Sutherland's county police consisted of one chief constable, one inspector, one sergeant and 15 constables.

Sixteen Helmsdale boats had to run for shelter to Portmahomack because of a strong south-westerly gale which sprung up suddenly. Only three boats managed to enter the harbour at Helmsdale.

Offers had been invited for the supply and delivery of beefsteak for tuberculosis patients throughout the entire county, specifying particularly rump steak and stewing steak. The advertisement was on the orders of Dr K A Macrae, medical officer of health, Bonar Bridge.

75 YEARS AGO (January 17, 1907)

Eight curlers from Sutherland were going to Switzerland for the International Curling Bonspiel. They were J R Campbell (Shinness), W J Dudgeon (Crakaig), Walter Mundell (Dalchork), and Alfred M MacAulay (Golspie). The other team was Major Macdonald (Balcharn), H Mackay, J Mackay and William Wallace (all Lairg).

The Moray Firth was full of a huge shoal of herring and one boat, "The Janet Geddes", had a catch amounting to 170 crans, which sold at 20 shillings per cran. Another boat, "The Lead Me" had 70 crans which fetched 31/6 per cran.

The employees of Blairbuie Farm, Shinness, had their annual ball in a loft kindly loaned by Mr Campbell, Shinness House. Dancing commenced at 9 pm and

carried on till the early hours of the morning, refreshments being supplied at intervals.

Mr John Elliot, Clovenfords, near Galashiels, had secured a long lease of the farm of Sciberscross, then tenanted by Mr Milligan.

Motor traffic on the various routes from Lairg to the West had been interrupted by a severe snow storm, and for a fortnight the mails had to be conveyed on horseback.

PROTECTING WILD BIRDS

by Frank Hamilton
Scottish Director,
RSPB

We are all well aware of the hardship and discomfort caused by the current arctic weather but I also point out that this hard weather is daily claiming the lives of thousands of birds.

A kingfisher found dead in the centre of Edinburgh, swans and herons frozen into the ice, are just two of the more extreme examples of suffering in recent weeks.

While there is little that most people can do in these cases, the effects of this weather can be reduced for many birds with the co-operation of the public.

In this weather many bird species move into our gardens to find shelter and so present us with a good opportunity, by providing them with food and water, to keep them alive through this difficult period. Although countless thousands of people throughout the country already do this, many more can help and, at the same time, derive much enjoyment from seeing at close hand the different bird visitors they attract. Any kitchen scraps, fat, bacon rind and even the crumbs from the breadboard will all help.

If anybody wishes to know more about what can be done, I am making available a FREE colour booklet "Your Winter Birds" which provides details about types of food to provide, winter bird visitors, etc.

Simply send two second class stamps together with your name and address to my office and I will send on a copy immediately — address is The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 17 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5BN.