

FROM OUR FILES

150 YEARS AGO

Four Lives Lost - The sloop "Mary" from Shieldaig of Applecross, with a crew consisting of four individuals, while at anchor in the harbour of Lochinver, was boarded on Sunday, the 13th inst., by two sailors, from a vessel lying alongside the quay there, who, on looking into the forecabin, were horrified to observe one man dead.

On further inquiry, it was found that the whole crew consisting of other three persons are dead. An express was despatched to Scourie for Mr Maciver the Duke of Sutherland's factor, who arrived next day, and after a minute investigation of the circumstances and an examination of the bodies by Drs Black of Tongue, and Gordon of Scourie, it was satisfactorily ascertained that the cause of their death was suffocation from smoke.

They had been dead three days before they were discovered.

Owing to severe gales of wind, the non-appearance of any of the men on deck did not excite any alarm in the minds of the crews of two vessels at anchor aside the Mary. Coffins were prepared for the bodies, and Mr Maciver took measures to inform the relations of the deceased of their sad and untimely end.

(Courier 22.2.1848)

100 YEARS AGO

Up in the Air - From Birmingham comes the germ of the architecture of the future.

For a quarter of a century the speculative builder of that city has hungrily cast his eye upon a bare plot of ground most eligibly situated, but upon which bricks and mortar could not be laid for the simple reason that underneath runs a tunnel of the Great Western Railway, which would not bear the weight.

An architect has, however, solved the problem of utilising this space for building purposes without building upon it.

He proposes, in fact, to erect a three-storey edifice, whose base of support will be outside the dangerous area, while the building itself will be supported on the cantilever principle, up in the air above the ground on which its foundations would in ordinary circumstances be laid.

As an application of architectural ingenuity to meet an isolated difficulty, this might be allowed to pass unnoticed; but its potentialities are

too great. If ground increases in value, various modifications and combinations of the cantilever principle can be contrived, whereby a whole town will live in the air, supported from a number of fixed points. So at least a contemporary suggests, but like Artemus Ward he was "writing sarcastik".

(Courier 18.2.1898)

50 YEARS AGO

Gift Food for Inverness-shire - Yesterday afternoon in Rose Street Drill Hall, Inverness, gifts of various foods received from South Africa and Australia were presented to thirty-five people by the Inverness-shire branch of the British Red Cross Society.

The food, which was in tins, consisted of milk, soup, jam, beef-dripping etc. The County Director of the Red Cross, Mrs Marshall, Hilton Hotel, presented the gifts and was assisted by Mrs Collier, welfare officer; Mrs Mackenzie, Broomhill, Commandant V.A.D.8; Mrs Davidson, V.A.D.40; and Mrs Bullock V.A.D.8. Mr A. N. Macleod, hon. secretary was also present.

Other parts of the county have already received gifts from the same source, including Inverness District, Lochaber, Kingussie, Aviemore, Newtonmore and Tomatin.

The food distributed was the first consignment, other gifts will follow.

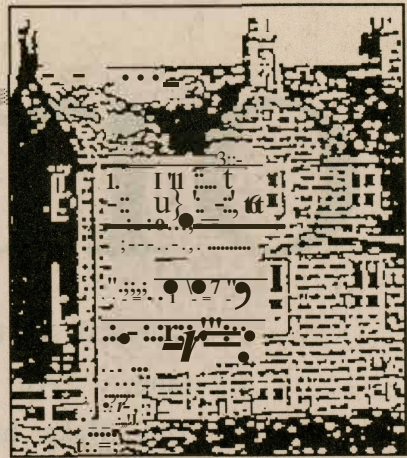
Mental Welfare - At a public meeting held on Tuesday in the County Buildings, Inverness, it was decided to form a Northern Counties Association for Mental Welfare, comprising the five northern counties from Nairn to Caithness and including the Burgh of Inverness. Rev Wm Graham, Ardersier, was nominated chairman.

Miss Laird, secretary and organiser of the Scottish Association for Mental Hygiene, was present at the meeting and gave an interesting and stimulating talk on the aims and objects of the Association which, she said, had two settings, a world setting and an individual setting.

The movement was international and each county adopted the methods most suited to its needs, an example which she hoped the Northern Association would follow.

This part of the country had been one of the first areas to interest itself in mental health and there had been a local committee and a special school.

Both of these had gone, but she hoped the interest in mental wel-



fare would be re-born.

(Courier 20.2.1948)

25 YEARS AGO

Television Official at Inverness Meeting - The speaker at Inverness St Mark's (Queen Street and Merkinch) Church Women's Guild's meeting on 13th February was Mr John Lindsay, officer for Scotland of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and his subject was "The structure and operations of Independent Broadcasting". Guests at the meeting were the ladies from Nairn High, Kiltarlity, and Inverness Methodist Guilds.

Mr Lindsay began by defining the Television Act, which states that: "Nothing be included in programmes which offends against good taste or decency or is likely to encourage or incite to crime, or to lead to disorder, or be offensive to public feeling. News programmes must be presented with due accuracy and impartiality."

"Proper proportions of performances must be of British origin and maximum allowance of imported materials in any one year is 14 per cent. Tastes and outlooks of local people to be reflected in programmes."

There were 15 programme companies responsible for submitting programmes to I.T.A. to transmit if they thought fit, and none of the companies had any authority over the others.

Mr Lindsay went on to say that making television programmes was not cheap, and every advertiser had to be sure of his facts, because experts were employed to check them. No-one wanted to make a programme if it would end up in the wastepaper basket.

Every programme that went out was watched by one or more members of TV staff, and reported on next morning, when a post-mortem was held. TV had the most strictly controlled form of advertising in the country, he concluded, and rules were the same as applied to other programmes.

(Courier 20.2.1973)