

Property of -

WITH CARE.

Mrs J.K. Mackay
Sunnyside
Dornoch,

Local Notes.

Date 1945

Per

Sept 14th 3 1976

Donald Grant, bionic 87, does not run so fast

His legion of friends will be delighted to know that world traveller and lecturer Donald Grant, of Evelix, Dornoch, has gained a new lease of life after being fitted with a cardiac "pacemaker" in London's National Heart Hospital.

He says in a letter that his "natural forces have been restored to the degree of power and energy typical, in my case, of 65 years of age. I am thankful and can look forward to a few more years of my usual vigour."

Now 87, Mr Grant got his first health warning last February. He was about to give his famous Canada lecture to 350 schoolboys in the south when he thought he would have to cancel it as he felt so weak.

"Something had happened; it was new in my long experience."

But after the operation, on July 30, he felt his energy "normal and re-established; but I do not run fast any more. I do not feel any diminution in my mental capacity or my speaking, and I hope for even a modest stretch of years ahead in which to complete a good deal of writing to which I am committed."

Now Donald is to have an operation for the removal of a cataract "which has shadowed my one good eye."

Mr Grant is still publicising his Donald Ross golf book, and he got a great boost the other day when he learned that one of his articles had been published in an American news bulletin.

It described "golf of long ago", and how Mr Grant, in the Amateur Championship of 1911, played with only seven clubs "and quite efficiently, reaching the fifth round."

Now he is completing a list of "good Americans," some of whom, he hopes, "will be visiting the golf courses of Sutherland in 1977, the centenary year of the Royal Dornoch Golf Club."

Oct 10th 1975

COUNTY'S BIGGEST DRUGS HAUL

The biggest haul of illegal drugs ever found in Sutherland was discovered in an Army-type haver-sack in the back of a grey van when it was searched outside Dornoch police station.

Detectives picked up 13.2 grammes of herbal cannabis and 4.5 grammes of opium, plus another reddish-brown substance they were unable to identify.

The van had been stopped outside Forse in the Caithness parish of Latheron after a couple had been reported breaking into an old croft house at Navidale on the north road.

The two, Peter John Clark and Megan Elizabeth Guest, on holiday from their flat in Liverpool, pleaded guilty at Dornoch Sheriff Court on Tuesday to having illegal possession of the drugs.

Sheriff William Murdoch fined them both £200.

Clark, a forestry worker with Liverpool Corporation, was fined a further £30 for stealing two earthenware pots and a vase from 206 Navidale, Helmsdale. Both he and his girl-friend, a computer programmer with a typewriter company, are in their middle twenties.

Appearing for the accused, solicitor Mr W. C. Wright said that both had been using cannabis and the reason they had such a large quantity was that they were on holiday and knew it would be unobtainable in the far north.

The opium had been given to them some time before. They had tried using it but it made them sick and they had intended getting rid of it, but to their regret had not done so.

EMPLOYED

Both were in full employment, Clark earning £32 a week with Liverpool Corporation and Guest £170 a month with British Olivetti.

Sheriff Murdoch said: "I don't want to waste my time discussing the merits and demerits of drug-taking, though some would argue that cannabis smoking may be less harmful than the effects of alcohol or tobacco."

"Nonetheless, Parliament in its wisdom has decided on stiff penalties for illegal possession of the drug, believing that it

may lead to more harmful drugs — as it has done in this case."

He allowed Clark and Guest six weeks to pay their total fine of £430.

Chemists who analysed the reddish-brown substance in their van believed it was used to dispel the distinctive smell of the drugs.

Oct 10th 1975

Clearance

Sir, — I was astonished at the comments of Mr McBain, as reported in your issue of September 26, in reference to the negotiation of contracts with Alexander Sutherland (Golspie) Ltd.

Are we returning to the sophisticated "clan" warfare of the former Sutherland County Council? Surely a local contractor, employing Sutherland tradesmen, no matter who controls the company, deserves more consideration than Mr McBain seems prepared to give.

Let us not fight old wars all over again. We still remember the Sutherland Clearances of the last century — it will be ironic if the Sutherland Clearances of this century are caused by the elected representatives of the people. — J. B. Buchanan, Duke Street, Golspie.