

## Mountain accidents— Grampians and Cairngorms

- 1.2.73 *Erratum.* *Journal* no. 95 (1973) p. 94 l. 15 for Frank Harrington read William George Harrington.
- 12.2.73 It was reported that a flashing light was seen, apparently on the summit of Creagan Gorm, near Glenmore, and after search parties were out it was discovered that the light came from Portmahomack Lighthouse, Ross-shire.
- 3.3.73 It was reported that a skier had been injured in Coire na Ciste in the Cairngorms. After a search it was learned that he had only been slightly injured and had been attended to by the Ski Patrol.
- 5.3.73 A male student was practising braking with an ice axe in Coire na Ciste in the Cairngorms when his ice axe punctured his femoral artery.
- 24.3.73 An 8-year-old boy slipped whilst climbing the lower grass slopes of Craigellachie Rock, Aviemore and was injured.
- 12.5.73 A 10-year-old boy became crag bound on Craigellachie Hill, Aviemore and had to be rescued.
- 17.6.73 Alan R. White (30), Perth, was leading a climb with one companion on 'Guinness', Red Craig, Glendoll when he dislodged a rock and fell about 15 feet. Sustained fracture of left leg. Held by companion then lowered by him to ledge from which he was taken by other climbers.
- 2.7.73 It was reported at Aviemore that a light, thought to be a flare, was sighted above the Cairngorms. After a search was carried out it was learned that this was 'Skylab' circling the earth.
- 4.7.73 A 39-year-old sales manager was walking in the Cairngorms when he collapsed and died due to a heart attack.
- 5.7.73 Mark Bee (15), Scunthorpe, suffered from bronchitis while walking from Glen Tilt to Braemar and was evacuated by Landrover.
- 6.8.73 John Hargrave (57), Yorks, became separated from the other members of his party while walking with cycles across Jock's Road and was reported missing. Had fallen over cycle and slightly injured his knee. Evacuated by Landrover.

- 13.8.73 It was reported at Aviemore that what appeared to be a distress flare had been sighted above the Cairngorms. An all night search was carried out but nothing was found and no person was reported missing.
- 19.8.73 Mrs C. Forrest (66), Stoneywood, broke her right ankle while walking on Bennachie.
- 1.9.73 Joseph Brown (65), Manchester, died of natural causes while walking on Morrone.
- 20.10.73 Malcolm Livingston (26), Aberdeen, delayed by snowstorm while walking from Linn of Dee to Coylum Bridge. Turned back before Pools of Dee and spent night at Corroul. Search mounted but found safe and well.
- 29.10.73 Four soldiers aged 29, 28, 19 and 18 years were reported overdue on a navigation exercise in the Cairngorms. After a search they were found next morning having followed an erroneous compass bearing.
- 19.12.73 A 23-year-old climbing instructor was avalanched whilst climbing in Coire an Sneachda in the Cairngorms and was injured.
- 23.12.73 A 20-year-old male student was avalanched whilst climbing in Coire an Sneachda in the Cairngorms and was injured.
- 30.12.73 Sheila Mearns (17), Carnoustie, one of party of three, walking in Corrie Fee, Glendoll found recognised route too difficult because of black ice, retreated and tried to climb out by even more difficult route and became stranded on icy rock. Taken off rocks by other climbers and evacuated by Mountain Rescue Team and civilians. Girl suffered from shock and exposure.
- 3.1.74 A party of three 19-year-old men left Braemar Youth Hostel to climb Beinn a' Bhuid. Route sheet showed return time of 6 pm. Reported missing at 10.15 pm. Traced to Mar Lodge, having been there since 5 pm.
- 5.1.74 A 28-year-old draughtsman was reported having been seen in an exhausted condition in the Cairngorms. Whilst a search was in progress, he returned to Aviemore, having been lost in 'white out' conditions.
- 13.1.74 A 24-year-old student was reported overdue in Glenfeshie where he was engaged in carrying out a deer count. A search was mounted and the man traced to a house near Kingussie, where he had gone without reporting to his employer.

- 17.3.73 A party of climbers were avalanched in Coire Laogh Mor in the Cairngorms, resulting in a 17-year-old schoolboy and a 23-year-old mountaineering instructor sustaining injury.
- 24.3.74 A 20-year-old warehouseman fell whilst climbing in Coire an Lochan, Cairngorm and was injured.
- 24.3.74 Edward Dunthorne, Aberdeen, took wrong route off An Sgarsoch and arrived at the Tarf. Attempted to go to Bynack Lodge and arrived instead at Fealar where he was benighted. Search mounted. Found safe and well next morning.
- 7.4.74 A 23-year-old male student and a 24-year-old female student were avalanched whilst climbing in Coire an Lochan, Cairngorm and sustained serious injuries.
- 13.4.74 Garry Morton (18), South Shields, slipped and fell on snow on Beinn a' Bhuid. Broken nose, bruising, lacerations. Evacuated by helicopter.
- 12.5.74 Eric Clark (17), Aberdeen, fell about 100 feet on Creag Ghiubhais. Broken neck. During rescue a half-ton boulder, loosened during Clark's fall, became dislodged, rolled down the hillside, bounced over the heads of two members of the rescue party and the patient, and demolished the stretcher.
- 12.5.74 Douglas Buchan (72), Elspet Buchan (59), both of Aberdeen and Elspet Paterson (58), Banchory, became detached from a large party walking from Tarfside to Forest of Birse and were subsequently benighted on the Upper Aven near Mount Battock. Search started in heavy rain and thick fog during night. The lost party were sheltering in a grouse hut and during the night saw flashes of light which they thought to be lightning but were almost certainly the lights of a search party about 50 yards away. Found next afternoon suffering from exposure.
- 15.5.74 Two female domestic workers, aged 30 and 24 years, were reported overdue in the Cairngorms. They were found unharmed after a search.
- 18.5.74 James Hood (40), Aberdeen, became separated from a party of forty-one on a walk through Jock's Road to Braemar. Turned back and subsequently tried unsuccessfully to pass word to Braemar that he had done so. Reported missing but traced before search got under way.
- 30.5.74 A 25-year-old schoolteacher became ill whilst walking near the Pools of Dee in the Cairngorms and had to be rescued.

- 3.6.74 Kenneth Freeman (20), Aberdeen, climbing with companion on 'The Pyramid', Corrie Fee, Glendoll slipped on lichen-covered rock and fell 100 feet. Sustained fractured pelvis and two fractures to right arm.
- 12.6.74 A 24-year-old Youth Hostel Warden was found lying ill near Loch Etchachan in the Cairngorms and had to be rescued.
- 12.6.74 John Rosenfield taken ill and evacuated from Shelter Stone by helicopter.
- 21.6.74 A 16-year-old schoolboy became ill whilst hill-walking at Chalamain Gap in the Cairngorms and had to be rescued.
- 26.7.74 L. Blackmore, Fife, aged about 20 years, reported missing on a walk from Loch Morlich Youth Hostel to Braemar via March Burn. Found asleep in Corrour Bothy.
- 11.8.74 Two Austrian girls were reported missing on a walk from Braemar to Aviemore via the Lairig Ghru. An extensive search was mounted but the girls were traced to a hostel in Sutherland, not having reported their safe arrival at Aviemore as arranged.
- 18.8.74 Four French girls were directed from Braemar through Lairig Ghru to Aviemore. Lost bearings and walked up Allt Carn a' Mhaim. In evening found their way to Lairig Ghru. By this time it was raining and a man directed them to Corrour Bothy where they spent the night (they were carrying sleeping bags). Next morning they were found at Corrour Bridge about 11 am, not having eaten anything since the previous morning. They were given something to eat and directed back to Aberdeen to go to Aviemore by train. Not reported missing.
- 25.8.74 A 20-year-old student was reported missing in the Cairngorms. He was found after a search safe and well, having been benighted.
- 5.10.74 Four junior soldiers, aged 16-17 years, were overcome by carbon monoxide fumes from 'Hexamine' fuel cookers whilst on an expedition in the Cairngorms, and had to be evacuated to hospital.
- 9.11.74 Iain Gaul (15), Dundee. Fell on hard snow above Loch Etchachan. Unable to brake with ice axe, and slid about 200 feet. Facial abrasions, bruising, bad gash on left leg.
- 10.12.74 Nine females, aged 16 to 26 years, were reported overdue on an expedition in the Glenfeshie area. They were found safe after a search, having been disorientated.

- 26.1.75 An 18-year-old student was killed when he either stepped over or slipped from the ridge in very bad weather conditions and fell about 600 feet into Coire an Lochan, Cairngorm, pulling with him a 20-year-old student companion to whom he was roped. The companion suffered only slight injury.
- 27.1.75 Norman Keir (26), Aberdeen and David Wright (28), Kemnay, reported overdue from a climb on Creag an Dubh Loch. Search mounted but climbers turned up safe and well, having been benighted on climb.
- 9.2.75 Stephen Thomson (7), Inverurie, lost on Bennachie while walking with his parents. Reported missing but turned up safe and well before search started.
- 15.2.75 Several skiers reported missing at Cairnwell. All turned up quite soon except one boy who was subsequently traced. Other three skiers who had been lost but not missed also turned up safe and well.
- 20.2.75 Paul Bennet (28), London and Robin Brooks (30), Chatham, were benighted on a climb of West Gully, Lochnagar. Reported missing and search mounted. At one stage it was believed that they were cragfast in the gully, and rescue equipment was taken to the top but soon afterwards the two men turned up at their camp safe and well, having reached the top of the gully minus a compass and wandered down Glas Allt.
- 23.2.75 Charles Blanchett (33), Liz Wilson (25) and Morag Singer (25), all from Aberdeen, reported missing on a walk from Coire Kander round County Boundary to Glas Maol and Devil's Elbow. Before search got under way they turned up at Tulchan, Glen Isla, safe and well.
- 20.3.75 Patricia Gough (29), Reading, one of a party of ten climbing unroped in South-east Gully of Creag an Dubh Loch, was dislodged when other three of her companions fell from above her. All four fell to the foot of the gully but only Gough sustained injury. (Broken left leg).
- 25.3.75 Jonathan Koster (19), Solihull, suffered a suspected hernia while descending from Cairngorm to Fords of Avon. Evacuated from Fords of Avon by helicopter.
- 29.3.75 Brian Fraser (20), Aberdeen, and companion benighted while climbing 'Look C' Gully, Corrie Fee, Glendoll. Suffered from exposure and frostbite. Taken to top of cliffs by Police Mountain Rescue Team and evacuated to hospital by RAF helicopter.

- 7.4.75 A 21-year-old student was reported as missing in 'white out' conditions on a walk between Loch Einich and Loch-an-Eilean, by Aviemore, but she turned up safe and well just as a search was being commenced.
- 7.4.75 A 51-year-old electrical engineer was reported missing in 'white out' conditions in the vicinity of the Coire Cas car park, Cairngorm where he had left his wife and infant son to ski in the near vicinity. A full scale search and rescue operation involving approximately seventy men, search and rescue dogs and a helicopter was mounted in atrocious weather conditions and maintained without success until the forenoon of 10 April when a search and rescue dog found the body of the missing man buried in the snow about three hundred yards south-west of the White Lady Sheiling. A post-mortem examination revealed that he had died from: (1) Myocardial Ischaemia; (2) Exposure.
- 30.4.75 A party of four RAF Apprentices were avalanched whilst climbing in Coire an Lochan, Cairngorm. One of the party sustained a slight leg injury which necessitated his removal by stretcher.
- 30.4.75 A party of nine on a cross-country ski-ing expedition was avalanched when climbing a gully on the east side of the Lairig Ghru. Three members of the party were injured but none seriously.
- 10.5.75 Martin Douglas Kydd (19), Dundee, climbing alone on 'The Shute', Dunkeld, dislodged rock which struck him on head causing him to fall about 25 feet. Taken to hospital - concussion. Not wearing climbing helmet.
- 11.5.75 Kevin Tindell (23), York, was taken ill while staying at Corrour Bothy and evacuated by helicopter.
- 8.6.75 Colin Rowe (18) and Brian Tilley, both Royal Marines, injured on 'King Rat', Creag an Dubh Loch when Rowe fell while leading, and a peg belay came out. Rowe suffered a badly gashed leg and fractured pelvis, and Tilley severe rope burns.

The Editor is very grateful to Sergeant John Duff for compiling the above list, and also acknowledges the help given by Grampian and Tayside Police and Northern Constabulary who all co-operated in supplying information.