

IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that the Club records the death of the following members:

Col. Patrick D. Baird (OL 1954)	Mr. A.W. Clark (O 1933)
Prof. John Boyes (O 1942)	Mr. Roger J.C. Fleming (OL 1938)
Mr. Archibald C. Campbell (OL 1926)	Mr. Dirom C. Young (A 1955)
Mr. Robert Chapman (O 1949)	

WILLIAM M. DUFF

William ('Willie') Duff whose death was reported in the last *Journal*, was born in Edinburgh in 1885, the eldest of a family of seven. He was educated at Daniel Stewart's College where he was one of the bright boys. On leaving school he entered the Civil Service. He worked in London and it is said that in his early days there, money was scarce and, so, of necessity he acquired the habit of walking – a practice which he maintained into his 90's. On appointment as Inspector of Taxes in Aberdeen he was introduced to the Cairngorm Club which he joined in 1936. He participated fully in the Club's activities both its outings and Committee Work and served as President, 1950-52. He enjoyed Annual General Meetings when he seldom failed to raise some point of order and when in his 80's and regularly attending Easter Meets in his black Humber car, he was a willing chauffeur. The Club elected him an Honorary Member in 1961.

He maintained an interest in his old school through its Former Pupils Club, took an active part in the Scottish Youth Hostels Association and latterly travelled extensively, doing several trips round the world.

He was never a rock climber but he loved the hills. He derived much pleasure from his association with the Cairngorm Club and with his genial and sociable disposition and enthusiasm gave the Club much in return.

A.L.H.

PAT BAIRD

Patrick Douglas Baird, who was President of the Club in 1959, died in Ottawa on 1 January 1984. Though he was born in Newmarket (in 1912) he belonged to a well-known Scottish family and had strong childhood connections with Caithness. He attended Edinburgh Academy before going to Cambridge, where he graduated as a geologist in 1933.

While at school he was keen on rock climbing. In 1933 he visited the Garbh Choire of Beinn a' Bhuid with the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club, and was one of the party of three that completed the Direct Route up the Mitre Ridge for the first time on 4 July; a second party pioneered a different route the same day. These achievements were to set a new trend. All the rock climbs in the Cairngorms up till then had been in gullies and chimneys, and these were the first routes to break out on to exposed faces where granite climbing is actually at its best. The same year Pat also climbed in the Alps from Saas Fee, and became a member of the SMC (he was later to serve on its Committee in 1958-59). The following year J.M. Wordie invited him, along with Tom Longstaff and others, to join a summer expedition to West Greenland and central Baffin Island.

The 'Eastern Arctic' of Canada, and especially Baffin Island, were to become the main focus of his long career in arctic exploration and glaciology. Although he spent a year working for a West African goldmining company in between, he accepted Tom Manning's invitation to join the British-Canadian Arctic Expedition which set out in 1936, to explore the little-known country bordering the inland sea of Foxe Basin, north of Hudson Bay, which includes Southampton Island, Melville Peninsula and western Baffin. He made many long journeys, with other expedition members, with Inuit (Eskimo) families, and alone. Returning north after a short visit to Britain in 1938 he was hoping to reach his base at Igloolik in the mission schooner; but she was stopped by ice, and he and Reynold Bray, an ornithologist, were put ashore with a whaleboat at Winter Island, near the Melville coast, 300 miles short of their destination. They had been making good progress northward for a fortnight when the engine gave out. On 14 September, while Baird was ashore and Bray on board, the anchor dragged in a gale. Bray tried desperately to pole the heavy boat to shore, in vain. He then launched their folding canvas boat, hoping he could bring a line ashore. Instead the gale took charge, and he was swept out to his death at sea.

Pat got to Igloolik safely; and in December-January he sledged by dog-team the 300-mile length of Melville Peninsula south to Repulse Bay, to send out news of the tragedy, and then back again. Soon after, in February 1939, he began another long journey, crossing Fury and Hecla Strait to Baffin Island with Eskimos, and continuing alone across the 250-mile width of Baffin to reach the east-coast settlement of Pond Inlet. From there he sailed south in September in the supply ship *Nascopie* to Montreal.

He had come out to join the Canadian army. He spent the war years training arctic and mountain commandos in the Rockies, Iceland and Scotland (which brought him to Glenfeshie and Braemar). Soon after the war ended, Pat, now a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Canadian Artillery, was given command of Exercise Muskox, during which, between February and May 1946, he led a squadron of

snowmobiles on an epic journey of 3000 miles across the frozen tundra, from Churchill north to Victoria Island (69° N), then west to the Coppermine and Mackenzie rivers, back into timbered country and south to Alberta. It was the first venture of its kind, and its headline success in the world press owed not a little to Pat's great experience and thoroughness, and skill as a navigator.

He left the army to become Director of the newly-founded Arctic Institute of North America at its main headquarters in Montreal; and from there he led two large scientific expeditions to Baffin Island in 1950 and 1953. The first was to the middle of this huge island, principally to make glaciological studies on the low-level Barnes icecap which he had originally discovered (in the distance) in 1934. The second was to the high-level Penny icecap in south-east Baffin, a region of mountains fantastic even by Baffin standards. It is now a Canadian national park, called Auyuittuq, and Pat had made several more recreational visits to it in later years.

I was lucky enough to share in the 1950 expedition, and to take Sandy Anderson with me from the Aberdeen Zoology Department. We spent most of the summer at the biologists' camp at the head of Clyde Fiord. In 1953, when Adam Watson was the expedition zoologist, I also joined the party at their Summit Lake base at the end of the season and helped to portage their equipment down to Pangnirtung Fiord. Pat was a genius at expeditions, combining foresight with a talent for appreciating and furthering the work his scientists were keen to do. He toured our far-flung camps and kept us in mutual contact through two-way radio schedules. Calm and self-reliant, there were few things in life he himself relished more than venturing through dangerous country alone, but safely, with the barest of creature comforts.

He brought his family to Aberdeen in 1954, to take up a senior research fellowship in Geography at the University. His indoor work was to write a textbook, *The Polar World*, eventually published in 1964. Outdoors, as many members will recall, he established a meteorological station about ¼ mile northeast of the cairn on Ben Macdui, getting it going in February 1956. It contained instruments run by clockwork which he (and occasionally others) managed to service on average at 8 or 9-day intervals, at least through the next eight months (CCJ 17: 147-9); my own notes show it was still going in July 1958. In the fine summer of 1955 he visited all 22 of the Cairngorm Munros, in typical Baird style, in 59¾ unhurried hours, of which 22 were spent in overnight camps and 37¾ on the march: the distance was 75 miles and the total climb 19,000 feet. He lit a pipe on each Munro (CCJ 17: 75-6, 1956)! Incidentally I remember him saying that Braemar village recorded a range of 100°F in 1955, from -15 to 85, and he doubted whether any other locality in the UK could equal it. A third of his Journal contributions, on 'shelter' as an alternative strategy for people overtaken by blizzards on the hills, appeared in 1961 (CCJ 17: 184-7).

He returned to Canada, his adopted home, in the autumn of 1959, to a post at McGill University, Montreal, as warden of the Mont St Hilaire field-centre; and from that he retired in 1969.

He will be remembered by a multinational circle of friends and admirers, as a tall, spare, commanding figure – a man to thank for his help and respect for his courage, exploits and attainments. Moved by the occasion he could enjoy uproarious fun, or sing in a deep rich voice. He could also be aloof at times, though he had a warm and remarkably generous heart. He was awarded the Bruce Prize by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1946 and the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1953, for his contributions to arctic geography and glaciology. The Baird Peninsula, named for him, stands out from Baffin into Foxe Basin, and Bray Island is nearby.

V.C.W-E.

ALEXANDER W. CLARK

It is always sad to record the death of a long-standing member of the Cairngorm Club, even though known to only a few of the present generation of members. Alex, or Sandy, was an Aberdonian by birth and upbringing. He graduated in Hons: Classics in 1924 and moved to Ayrshire to his first teaching post in Kilmarnock Academy. He lived in that county until his death in Kilmarnock on 4th March 1984, following a stroke three months earlier.

His love of the hills often brought him back to the Cairngorms where he spent many happy days with his friend, Bill Ewen in the early 'thirties, both before and after he joined the Club in 1933. The summers of 1931 and 1932 found them climbing in other parts of Scotland and, in 1934, mainly in Skye. Graham (Ewen) has found, recorded in his father's Log Book, that Bill and Sandy made the first winter ascent of Raeburn's Gully on 27th December 1932 and, the next day, the first winter ascent of Pinnacle Gully, No. 2.

In Ayrshire, Alex became Head of the Classics department in Spier's School, Beith in 1940; of Ardrossan Academy in 1942; then became Headmaster in Darvel in 1947, from where he retired. In each school, he was very keen on hill-walking clubs and I well remember a superb day on Ben Lomond with Ardrossan Academy pupils, when I was a colleague of Alex's, at the end of the war. Ten years later, two young friends and I met him at Derry Lodge and climbed several Munros in his company. He himself spent many holidays climbing in Arran with A.F. Duncan from the Cairngorm Club, then Head of Classics at Ayr Academy. Sadly both his death and that of Bill Ewen, were recorded in the last *Journal*.

Alex was a gifted musician, playing both cello and double bass, encouraging all players in school orchestras. He was very active in the Ayr Music Festival, was Vice-President and its Director of competitions

and was the driving force behind the establishment of the Ayrshire Schools Orchestra.

As a person, he was kind and friendly, never known to speak ill of anyone, this being in keeping with his religious beliefs. He was for many years, superintendent of the Sunday School and an elder in his church, in which capacity his visits were much appreciated, especially by the house-bound in his congregation. His wife, Jean, also an Aberdonian, to whom he was married for 54 years, must miss him sorely and to her we extend our deep sympathy.

J.A.C.

ROGER JOHN CARY FLEMING
OBE TD JP DL

Roger Fleming, a Club member since 1938, died suddenly when on business at Lerwick on 4 September 1984. The tribute paid to him at his memorial service in King's College Chapel enumerated his very many distinguished contributions to business and public life:

Fortunately, it was not all hard work . . . His lovely home at Bridge of Canny must have been a constant joy to him, backed up by the cottage at Glengairn. He loved his day's shooting and he adored the hills. He walked the Cairngorms throughout his whole life. One of his companions on these walks made the interesting observation that, latterly, Roger was only interested in 'through' walks. In life, as on the hill, he was never happier than when the objective was 'up and over' or 'through' whatever was in the way. He didn't much care for 'back to base'.

