

IN MEMORIAM

The Club records with regret the death of the following members:

Miss Constance Baxter (O 1955)
 Mr J. W. Fisher (A 1975)
 Mr Kenneth A. Gray (O 1966)
 Miss Ruth K. Jackson (OH 1928)

Mrs Elizabeth F. C. Watt (AL 1969)
 Mr Alan R. C. Watt (OH 1954)
 Mr James Will (OH 1968)

RUTH K. JACKSON

Ruth died on 21st November, 1990, after a long illness and just before her 87th birthday. She had been a member of the Cairngorm Club from 1928, joining one year later than Leslie Hay, the longest in membership. Ruth was an active member and served on the Committee from 1935 to 1937 and again from 1944 to 1946 and was then Vice-President from 1946-1949. She was elected an Honorary Member in 1986.

From her earliest days Ruth was a keen hill-walker. Few knew the hills of Northern Scotland, especially the Cairngorms, as intimately as she did, recognising near and distant summits from any angle and knowing the best routes to climb each. Until in her seventies, she seldom missed an Outdoor Meet and enjoyed the companionship of Easter Meets. Only her illness prevented her from meeting friends regularly at the Indoor Meets and Annual Dinners.

In the early thirties, Ruth introduced Lottie Wisely and Marion Hoggarth to the Club, after they climbed Lochnagar, and for years they and Lottie Esslemont, were her constant companions. She often arranged extra weekend outings with them or walks on a Saturday afternoon. Her companions on many an outing in the sixties were Jan Taggart and Daisy Cruickshanks (both of whom, sadly have died), but no matter how severe the weather, Ruth never adapted to trousers, always wearing a skirt, covered, if necessary, by a waterproof golfing skirt.

As a person, Ruth was very kind and generous, even-tempered and with a quiet sense of humour. The variety of her interests made up a very complete life. After schooling at 'The High', Miss Oliver's School (now Albyn) and Cheltenham Ladies College, she trained as an architect at Gray's College of Art, spending much of her working life in Aberdeen's Town Architect's Department. She was a keen guide and for many years was a commissioner. Her church meant much to her where she was prominent as editor of its magazine for many years and in the Linen Guild. She seldom missed an SNO concert or a Geographical lecture and the latter may have encouraged her to travel widely to many European countries, South and East Africa, Canada and USA, Australia and New Zealand, North West India and to more exotic places such as Kashmir, China, Peru and the Galapagos Islands, all of which she talked about very vividly. Until her health began to fail she played golf regularly at Balgownie and enjoyed the pleasures of gardening.

Ruth's death has saddened her many friends, within and outside the Cairngorm Club. She is sorely missed.

J.A.C.

ALAN C. R. WATT

The sudden death of Alan Watt in March 1989 came as a great shock. Alan was elected Honorary President only the previous year and had shown all his enthusiasm for the Club during this brief period and it was hoped to have the benefit of his wise counsel for many years.

Alan will always be associated in the memory of older members with the acquisition of Muir of Inverey. He was the driving force in the often difficult negotiations for its purchase during his period as President from 1967 to 1970, and willingly continued on the committee after his term of office to help in the design and adaptation of the building. Another of his services to the Club during his Presidency was to initiate the revision of the Club Constitution, a task for which he was well qualified.

Alan's interest in the hills was first shown at Aberdeen Grammar School where he was a founder member of what was then called the Rambling and Mountaineering Club. His studies at Aberdeen University were interrupted by the war when he served in the army and rose to the rank of major. He returned to take a First-Class Honours degree in History and then studied for the Law and became a partner in Gray and Kellas. In his professional capacity as a lawyer he was also appointed Town Clerk of Ballater and became a well-known figure on Deeside. Later he resigned from Gray and Kellas to take up the appointment as Chairman of Industrial Tribunals from which he retired in 1987.

The Watt family has a long association with the Club. Alan's father Theodore, and his uncle Edward were both members as was his elder brother George who was killed in the war, while his younger brother, Harold, also a Past President of the Club, is, of course, still a member. Alan's love of the hills and especially Deeside was shared with his wife Helen, indeed they joined the Club together. His friends will remember him for his many qualities, especially his unflinching good humour and warm personality.

E.F.J.

