

Arisaig Police Station 1931-1934
R91/D/C/5/5/3 at Fort William Archives

The first entry is by P.C. MacBean on August 1 1931. He had began duties at Arisaig on August 1st 1929

The last entry was on December 31 1934.

1931

- August 1 At 5pm left station and proceeded via Traigh and Morar to Mallaig. At 10.30, when assisting PC Ross in apprehending James Tait, (23), married, Fisherman, 25 Kirk Brae, Fraserburgh and Engineer on board Steam Drifter Craigneen BF93, I was kicked and struck on the face. At 1.30am when all had quietened down I left and returned to my station at 3am. 30 miles, 15 hours.
- August 2 Sunday. Off duty.
- August 7 Collected fee of 5/0 from Allan Cameron, Camasdarroch, who applied for Firearms Certificate.
- August 17 Received complaints containing charges of Con. Roads Act 1920 Sec 13 for service on Uilleamina MacRae, Lochailort Hotel, to appear before Sheriff Court Fort William 11am August 20 at pleading guilty (?). Cycled to Lochailort and served on Uilliamina MacRae personally. (Con. = Contravention of ?)
- August 20 Victorian Park Lochaber Gathering Games 9am till 6pm.
- September 14 Miss Isabella Fraser, School Teacher, New Buildings, reported loss of a gold chain and Heart-shaped pendant between her house and Astley Hall. No trace.
- September 23 Got Firearms form filled in by Lachlan MacPherson, Arienskill, who applied for Firearms Certificate.
- October 27 Proceeded to Astley Hall and did duty in connection with Parliamentary Election, Inverness Division. Handed Declaration of Secrecy to Mrs. Alexander Gibson, Woodend, who was Presiding Officer and regulated admission to and departure of voters from Poling Station. All passed over quietly till 9pm. 2 miles, 14 hours.
- November 3 Made enquiry re Alleged Sheep Stealing. Called at Inverailort Castle and noted statement of complaint from Mrs Cameron-Head and also noted statement from William Cameron Gamekeeper, Inverailort.

1932

- February 8 Got firearm form filled in by Dugald MacGregor, Gamekeeper, Inverailort and collected fee of 5/0.
- February 21 Kept watching in connection with Alleged Sheep Stealing at Inverailort.
- February 28 Kept watch on public road in connection with alleged sheep Stealing at Inverailort.
- March 6, 13, 20, April 3, April 17, April 24, May 1 Kept watch on alleged sheep stealing at Inverailort.
- April 2 Attended funeral of Sir A.W. Nicholson KCB at Kilmory Burying ground Arisaig.
- May 2 Patrolled to Larrach Mor Gardens and made enquiry re Theft of Blooms there on night of Wednesday 29th reported by Donald MacAlasdair Larrach. Saw trees and noted particulars.
- May 3 More enquiry re Theft of Blooms from growing trees at Larrach Mhor. Got no traces.
- May 8 Noted statement from John Augustus Holmes (65), single, Stockbroker, Formakin, Bishopton, Renfrewshire re theft of bloom from Larrach Mhor Gardens.
- May 11 Patrolled at the sale of cattle at Market Stance. All passed quietly.
- May 27 Kept watch re theft of blooms. Saw no signs of any person.

- June 20 Cycled to Lochailort and called at Inverailort and noted statement of complaint from Agnes Halliday or MacGregor, wife of and residing with Dugald MacGregor, Estate Manager, Inverailort. Also statement from Donald MacGregor (37), Estate Manager; James Stewart (17), apprentice Gardener; Annie Caldwell or Mitchell, wife of and residing with Peter Mitchell, Estate Joiner; all residing at Inverailort, Lochailort in case of Colin Montgomery (40), married, Ploughman, Ploughman, Inverailort - Breach of the Peace.
- June 12, June 19, June 26 Theft of blooms. Saw no person interfere.
- June 26 Vagrant Robert Hall (66), native of Perth
- June 27 Half yearly Census of Vagrants.
- July 5 Served charge of Breach of Peace on Colin Montgomery, Ploughman, Lochailort to appear before Sheriff Court Fort William at 11am on 12th inst.
- July 10 Enquired on theft of flowers
- August 8 Cycled to Mallaig. Did duties in Mallaig in vicinity of the Public Hall where celebrations in connection with the Master of Lovat's coming of age. Celebrations also held at Morar public hall and sixty couples were in attendance and all were quiet and orderly. Assisted locking up of Donald MacKellaig, Breach of the Peace. At 4am when all had dispersed I returned to my station at 5am.
- August 23 Left by excursion train 7am to Fort William and did duty at Victoria Park at the Lochaber Gathering Games till 5pm. Returned by train 6pm.
- October 14 Made enquiry re B J Ram strayed from Meoble. Learned that same was at Glen Mamie, Lochailort. Informed loser Alexander MacDonald, Meoble.
- October 24 Posted up poster notices re County Council and District Council Elections 1932 at following places - Parish Church, Astley Hall, Morrach, Beasdale, Arisaig Railway Station, Lochailort Railway Station, Inverailort.
- November 9 Collected Petroleum license from U and J MacRae, Lochailort Hotel and fee of 10/0.
- November 22 At Inverailort Castle got a statement from Mrs Cameron-Head regarding a tramp lodging in the byre at Essan without consent. Also had statement from John MacBeth, Estate Worker, Rannochan. Made enquiry for the tramp Donald MacLellan, known in Lochaber as "Loonack". Got no trace of him.
- December 1. Collected Firearms certificate from Mrs Cameron-Head and fee of 2/6.

1933

- January 30 Assisted conveying of Ronald MacEachan (59), married, Railway Surfaceman, Arisaig - who was certified insane - to District Asylum Inverness. 2.30 assisted conveying lunatic by train to Fort William, thence by car to Inverness where lunatic was handed over at 7pm. Returned to Fort William 11pm where I remained overnight.
- February 13 Served copy of complaint on Simon MacLennan, Camasdarroch, containing a charge of Con: Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928 Sec.2 and the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901, to appear before the Sheriff Court Fort William 11am 1st March 1933.
- February A large number of inspections of Road Fund Licenses were carried out.
- April 19 Was informed by Thomas Cairns (36), motor Lorry Driver, Skyview, that his GPO lorry and a motor car had collided at part of the Public Road at Loch Eilt side.
- June 10 Went by train to Lochailort thence by Hill path to Meoble Lodge and made enquiry regarding Byre burnt by fire between midnight and 5.45am on Friday 9th inst. I noted statements from Alexander MacDonald (42), married, Head Gamekeeper; John Gillies (26), single, Estate worker; John MacDonald (45), single, shepherd; all residing at Meoble. I examined the debris of the fire, but got no clue as to cause. Could not get any trace of tramps or any strangers being

about and it is suspected that some person accidentally dropped a lighted match or cigarette end. Returned by the same way to station.

June 26

Half yearly census of Pedlars.

July 4

A car hit a horse cart drawn in to the side of the road to let the car pass.

Policeman went to see the site. Got evidence of accident from Miss Annie Gillies (45), single, school teacher, Strath, Arisaig Station and from Florence Sutherland (26), single, school teacher, High Buildings, Arisaig. Statement from Simon MacDonald (42), married, Headmaster, Kilmory Arisaig. The three went and found Alexander MacEachan trying to unyoke his horse from his cart. I assisted him and saw that the right shaft of the cart was broken.

July 14

Was inspected by Brigadier General Dudgeon, HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland and the Chief Constable.

August 13

Made enquiry at Inverailort re Colin Montgomery - Breach of the Piece. Noted statements for Charles Kennedy (42), married, Estate Manager and his wife; also John MacBeath (54), married, Gamekeeper, residing Rannachan. Afterwards charged Colin Montgomery (40), married, Ploughman, residing Inverailort. He replied "No. I did not swear".

August 29

On duty at Lochaber Games at Victoria Park till 5.30.

September 1

Complaint served on Colin Montgomery, containing a charge of Breach of Peace to appear before Sheriff at Fort William.

September 4

I called at Inverailort Castle where I saw Mrs Cameron-Head in regard to her letter and wished to know if case of Colin Montgomery, Breach of Peace (in her employment) could be withdrawn.

September 11

Proceeded by passenger train to Mallaig, thence per Steamer "Fusilear" to Portree in connection with Royal visit there. On arrival reported to Inspector MacKay. Remained there overnight.

September 12

Did duty at the "Earl of Elgin Hotel" in connection with Royal visit till 4pm. Portree overnight.

September 13

7am came on duty at Portree and left by steamer "Fusulier" to Mallaig and proceeded thence by train to Station at 1pm.

October 10

William MacDonald, Road Contractor, Back of Keppoch, made application for Blasting Certificate (Form C) and to obtain 10 lbs Gelignite for purpose of blasting rock on public road at Woodend, Arisaig.

October 24

Delivered to William MacDonald certificate of registration under the explosives Act 1875.

November 25

Visited the Astley Hall where cinematograph (lit.) show was held by G. McKay Fort William. 80 persons present and carried out according to regulations.

December 12

Received phone message re Theft of money in Island of Muck and warned shops, Post Office and Hotel re passing of £5 Bank of England notes. Got no trace.

1934

February 8

Visited Astley Hall during cinema show held there by G McKay, Fort William. (Not cinematograph, from here onwards). All passed quietly.

February 28

Met Mr. Halse, Customs and Excise Officer, Fort William, who asked me to accompany him to Portnaluaichig where he was to destroy a cask of Collodion Cotton preserved in spirit which had been washed ashore there in August 1933. I accompanied Mr Halse and assisted him in destroying same by burning.

March 7

Collected Firearms certificate from Donald MacPherson, Railway Cottage, for renewal. He was lately at Railway Cottage Essan Lochailort.

March 8

Collected Firearms Certificate from Donald MacLeod, Laggan, Ardnish, Lochailort, for renewal (No. 1923) late of Glenuig Farm, Lochailort, and fee of 2/6.

March 25

At 11am Finlay Dempster (25), single, unemployed, 2 Beasdale Cottages, called at this station and reported that he had been assaulted at 10.15pm the previous

night at his house by his step-father John MacDonald (57), married, Labourer of same address. Dempster's head was bandaged and I examined a wound on his head, it was an inch long, deep and swollen and discoloured. This wound was done by a blow or blows from a walking stick. I arranged with complainer to see other witnesses at 8pm. At 7pm left station and patrolled along public road to Beasdale. Noted statements from Ian Dempster (23), single, unemployed and Catherine MacLeod or Dempster or MacDonald, aged 60 years, all at 2 Beasdale Cottages. Afterwards saw John MacDonald (51), married, Labourer of same address and warned cautioned and charged him with assault to the effusion of blood. His reply was "I should not have struck him, but you have no idea what I have to put up with". I took possession of a homemade Hazelwood stick weighing about half a pound and smeared with blood on handle. Returned to station at 10pm.

- April 4 Served Complaint personally on John McDonald No.2 Beasdale Cottages containing charge of Assault to the effusion of blood to appear before Sheriff Court Fort William 17th April 1934.
- April 19 Learned that Mary MacKinnon (25), Cook, single, Roshven, was suspected of Concealment of Pregnancy. She was within last day or two apparently in Pregnant Condition and was now normal again and would not to her employer (Mrs Blackburn) state any facts of her conditions. I learned Mr Peter Blackburn Roshven had gone to Fort William to interview Procurator Fiscal. On my return here 'phoned to Division Headquarters Fort William re same and was informed by PC Fraser that P.F. and himself were going to Roshven on 20th inst. to make enquiry.
- April 21 Delivered Pedler's Certificate No. 9 to Owen Robertson.
- May 6 John Holmes (65), single, Stockbroker, Formakin, Bishopton, Renfrewshire reported that nine branches of blossom on Cherry trees on his garden at Larrach Mhor were broken off and stolen between 12 noon and 6pm 5th inst. I made enquiry at Hotel and other places. Learned two motor cars left on afternoon 5th May from Hotel for Onich, one driven by James Brown, Stirling and other by William Barrie, Helensburgh.
- July 12 Lachlan MacLaren, (21), single, motor Car driver, reported that at 4pm A 6-cylinder Morris-Oxford Touring Car KS4590 at Glen Mamie took fire and was totally destroyed.
- July 20 Cycled to Mallaig and on arrival of steamer from Outer Isles at 8.15 along with PC Ross, Mallaig was inspected by Brigadier General Dudgeon HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland and the Chief Constable.
- July 26 Cycled to Lochailort and made enquiry regarding 109 B.J. sheep missing from Kinlochmoidart district. Got no trace of any at Lochailort.
- August 2 Parts from the motor car taken away by Charles MacNaughton, Glen Mamie; Joe Wiseman Butcher Mallaig; Ian Dempster 2 Beasdale .
- August 13 Murdoch McAskill, Cattleman, Roshven, made application for Firearm certificate to purchase a .22 rifle.
- August 23 Received 10/0 note from Jenny Cameron, Station House, Lochailort found by her at Lochailort.
- August 28 Did duty in Victoria Park at the Lochaber Games till 6pm.
- September 26 Learned that two heavy lorries had passed over restricted part of the Fort William to Mallaig road between 3 and 4pm. The drivers were charged with offence.
- October 2 Was engaged checking Road Fund licenses.
- October 11 Delivered Firearms' cert. No. 1962 to Lachlan MacPherson, Glenshian.
- December 10 7am went by train to Fort William for uniform measurements and returned to station at 11.30am.
- December 23 Half yearly Census of vagrants.
- December 31 The last entry. Day duty 5 miles and 7 hours. Night duty 3 hours from 8pm till 11pm.